

# AMERICA

A CATHOLIC REVIEW OF THE WEEK

OCTOBER 2, 1937

## WHO'S WHO

NENA BELMONTE is a young Spanish newspaper woman who has come to the United States direct from the scene of warfare in Spain. At Salamanca she cut in on General Franco's busy time, and obtained from him a pointblank statement giving his own personal explanation of how the Insurgent movement came about—its causes and occasions—and what he and his followers intend to do when they have obtained the victory. Specific, straightforward and soldierlike, Franco's words give the lie to diligently propagated insinuations. The Generalissimo makes it abundantly plain that Spain is beholden to no foreign power. She will be enfeoffed neither to Germany nor Italy, but aims solely at a Spain for the Spaniards, as masters in their own house. Not Fascism, nor any other ism, but a regime based upon equal opportunity and social justice is his professed aim. . . . M. J. HILLENBRAND, a professor at the University of Dayton, has already become known to our readers as an incisive commentator upon social conditions. . . . THOMAS F. MEEHAN needs to do no poring or ransacking in order to serve up his abundant store of ready knowledge: least of all when he writes of the drama of the Catholic press, his battlefield of a lifetime. The recent change in the status of the Cincinnati *Catholic Telegraph* is noted by him as the fitting occasion to tell of great achievements. . . . JOSIAH TITZELL, author of last year's popular *Best in the Greenwood*, is on the staff of the Condé Nast Publications. . . . KENTON and FRANCES (Frieseke) KILMER, having been married recently in France, now reside at Alexandria, Va. . . . HELENE MULLINS has gone, because of ill-health, from New York to California. . . . LEO L. WARD is the much-liked short-story writer and lecturer in English at Notre Dame University.

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AMERICA. Published weekly by The America Press, 53 Park Place, New York, N. Y., October 2, 1937, Vol. LVII, No. 26, Whole No. 1460. Telephone BARclay 7-8993. Cable Address: Cathreview. United States, 10 cents a copy; yearly, \$4.00; Canada, \$4.50; Europe, \$5.00. Entered as second-class matter, April 15, 1909, at the Post Office at New York, under Act of March 3, 1879. AMERICA, A Catholic Review of the Week, U. S. Pat. Off.

# COMMENT

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THAT the Spanish Masons were active in bringing about the disorders in Spain that were the occasion of the Insurgent uprising, is one of the theses maintained in this issue by General Franco. How intense is Masonic sympathy for the Governmental side, and how bitter is Masonic antagonism to Franco, is shown by items in the newssheet for August 30 of the Scottish Rite News Bureau, of Washington, D. C. Catholic priests are censured for visiting the Rebel lines in order to obtain information. "Very few Spanish ecclesiastics," says the newssheet, "have identified themselves as supporters of the democratic, duly constituted Spanish Republic." At the same time there are complaints over the "cruel and inhuman slaying of Masons" by the Franco forces, who were guilty of "perfidious treachery against the regularly constituted Government." Names and places of such executions are furnished. Masonic hostility is evidently no figment of the Insurgent imagination.

ONE of the astounding features of the recent excitement about Mr. Justice Black's alleged membership in the Ku Klux Klan is the way in which the news weekly *Time* has played down the story. In its issue of September 20, *Time* dismisses the incident in less than a column, ending with this amazing statement: "If the past of the first liberal justice appointed by Franklin Roosevelt should prove more sensational than the past of conservative justices, the chief embarrassment will fall not on him but on the New Deal." It would seem, therefore, that according to *Time*, Mr. Roosevelt did not appoint Justice Black; he was appointed by an abstraction called the New Deal. So? Well, why not get excited about the fact that he was appointed at all? The Black affair would seem to be the very kind of news explosion that would set *Time's* photographers and paragraphers wildly to work. Next thing they know, they may be asked to play down the Abdication of the King of England. It all looks very strange.

CONDITIONS as to the dire need of relief in Spain are impartially described in the report of Patrick Malin, professor at Swarthmore College and Vice-Chairman of the American Friends (Quakers) Service Committee, who returned from a tour of personal inspection early in September. Mr. Malin's report is unique and comprehensive. He describes conditions in the Loyalist territory as "spotty." In large areas life goes on as normally. In certain parts there is acute misery, hunger and disease. In the Nationalist area, according to Mr. Malin, "there seems less need for food, but more for clothing and emergency supplies in the war zone, and for service to refugees returning to their

homes." Repatriation of refugee children is presenting thorny problems. Refugees are draining all charitable resources in France, and 4,000 Basque children in England are proving a heavy burden to committees that underwrote their maintenance. As order is now restored in Bilbao and Santander "parents are now prepared to care for their children in comparative peace and safety." But since these children, says Mr. Malin, were sent away to escape the Insurgent regime, their return presents a difficult problem of reconciliation. In the meanwhile, the need goes on.

BUT two blocks from Fifth Avenue where for eighteen hours the street resounded with the blare of music and tramp of feet in military glory, another procession turned another milestone in its unending march. For seven years the Franciscan Fathers, of the Church of Saint Francis of Assisi, in New York City, have distributed of their poverty to the poor. Since this work of charity was instituted, says the N.C.W.C. News Service of September 24, 1,769,840 adults have been fed at a cost of \$106,531. Proud banners of "past glory, industrial power, financial riches, great hopes, wonderful dreams, worthy ambitions," were carried in that unending procession. But the banners were all reversed. They were the banners of the past, not of the future. In seven years the Friars of Saint Francis Church, through their agent, Brother Gabriel, have fed in addition to the adults hundreds of thousands of children begging for their parents, brothers and sisters. Clothing has been supplied, expenses for the necessities of life, such as rent, light, gas and lodging defrayed for the impoverished. In the depths of the depression the breadlines numbered some 4,000 daily. At the present time it cares for about 500 daily.

MUNITIR NA TIRE (Stay on the Land) meetings always provide some plain speaking on Irish problems and their solutions. This year was no exception. Indeed, it was enhanced as the problems were mainly rural and agricultural and they were discussed very freely in the presence of the Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Ryan and his chief, Mr. de Valera. We think it a fine gesture that these two were not afraid to face the music. Most of the discussions centered around the decrease of rural marriages. The causes of the decrease named were: un-economic holdings; lack of industries; the practice of the eldest son inheriting the farm, the only form of family subsistence with the allied one, the reluctance of the old folks, especially the mother, to admit an intruder and competitor to the home. A plea was made for the division of large estates, the



decentralization of industries and the regulation of the food supply. Father Hayes of Tipperary, the founder and soul of the movement, had a novel solution for the grandmother problem, always irksome in Ireland on account of local conditions. By grants or loans, a small house should be built on the grounds of all farms into which the young married couple could go for the first ten years of their married life. Then the old folks could move from the farm into the smaller house, giving the farm to the son and his growing family. He believed in making rural life happy, not by the tinned happiness of the cinema but by the happiness made by the young people themselves. He also censured the prevalent custom of the daughters seeking employment to the neglect of marriage.

AFTER a night of boisterous, but extremely funny (and remarkably good-natured) revels in Times Square on Monday, September 20, 200,000 members of the American Legion, gathered in New York for convention, put on their finest in the way of uniforms and brought out their best in the way of bands and flags, and floats and displays, and in most orderly and impressive fashion marched down Fifth Avenue on Tuesday in a parade that lasted eighteen hours, and was watched and cheered by 2,000,000 people. It was unquestionably the most magnificent affair of its kind ever witnessed in New York. The happiest faces of all who watched the parade were those of the New York policemen. They have had their fill of a different kind of demonstration recently. One of them was heard to whisper: "This will certainly get the goats of the Communists."

JOHNNIE and Mary sprawling on a chair or on the floor while the radio blares forth a sum in multiplication or a lesson in geography is the way education comes to young Chicago these days. The infantile paralysis epidemic is the cause of the novel procedure whereby 350,000 boys and girls are the subjects of this novel wrinkle in the application of the Three R's. It is a system of private school, correspondence school and home instructor, all rolled into one. Many no doubt are playing hookey, but the threat of examinations in the radio work after the schools convene is held out as a sanction. More than sixty-five per cent of the school age are attending, according to estimates of the school officials. It is really more of a training and sifting of capable radio teachers than a completely successful experiment. Special staff of extra teachers answer parents' questions—and we are sure they are many and humorous—from a central office. Newsreels have been made of the broadcast lessons so that outside schools can study and experiment with the novel method. The Chicago newspapers are cooperating with the radio, supplying the place of textbooks and to a degree supplying for the deficiency that the human youthful ear—especially the ear of young America—is subject in comparison with the eye. We are all, more so youth, eye-minded than ear-minded. Yet even this leaves the problem of the

teacher-pupil relation, or as one little girl admitted: "It's easier when you have a teacher standing by to help you." But it is, in Chicago, only an emergency measure and to be so judged as to its merits.

PROVIDING space in the Bronx and at Palisades Park, N. J., for 1,000 trailers of the Legion Convention recalls the current controversy on the "to be or not to be" of the trailer. The "yeas" will have one-half of America not only trailer-minded but living in trailers in ten years, while a voice almost as compelling proclaims the trailer a passing phenomenon, like many others, that reflects in a way the "lunatic fringe" of our population, without striking deep roots in the nation as a whole. We must, in judging such movements, ever bear in mind the publicity part of the game as well as the fact that those who write in the press and magazine are already "sold" on the benefits of the trailer. Articles appearing in magazines that seem just informative of the experiences of trailer-fans are later connected with skilful advertising propaganda. It is to be sincerely hoped that the adoption of trailers to the extent promised by some ardent champions may prove fallacious, something to capture the fleeting fancy of unstable citizens, like barnyard golf, a decade ago. A nation with half of its population on the road, with children subjected to another educational handicap and liable to add still more to our moron colony, is not something that warms the cockles of our hearts.

MOURNED by some 2,000,000 people, Thomas Garrigue Masaryk, first and former President of the Republic of Czechoslovakia, was laid to rest at his country home, Lany, on September 21. Amid all the details the press has carried concerning President Masaryk's last hours, his lying-in-state and the funeral, one circumstance passed unnoticed which was not as obvious as it at first appears. Masaryk's body was not cremated, but was buried in the churchyard at Lany. The significance of this item lies therein that it marks some change—we do not know how far—from the intense hostility to religion that characterized Masaryk's earlier years. Accustomed to plan every action methodically long in advance, Masaryk undoubtedly dictated these final arrangements to his earthly career. And fifteen years ago cremation would have been his undoubted request. It was the accepted symbol of Masonic rejection of religion and the immortality of the soul. The hope that his last hours might have been entirely reconciled to God was not fulfilled. Nevertheless, none can put limits to the Divine mercy; and the change of attitude towards religion and the Church that marked Masaryk's last years may have produced deeper fruits of interior repentance than we can be aware of. The words of President Benes in his funeral oration that Masaryk's philosophy was "Jesus—not Caesar," were not an expression of any very tangible Christian faith. But they were not the words one associates with a professed atheist.

# GENERAL FRANCO RESCUES NEW SPAIN

## Why the Nationalists rose as told by Franco to

NENA BELMONTE

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APRIL 14, 1931, the Spanish Monarchy fell. The Spanish Republic came into existence. Among its leaders were men from all different classes, Republicans, renegade Royalists, Socialists, Communists. Many were intent upon their personal welfare rather than upon the welfare of Spain. In addition, the Spanish Republic did not find itself free of obligations. For the most part the leaders were Free Masons. Before their duty to their country came their obligations to the Grand Orient.

In the army, we realized this state of affairs; but it was not up to the army to rule the country. It was our duty to defend Spain, regardless of personal feelings toward one form of regime or another. The leaders of the Republic, however, did not trust us.

The two years of Socialist rule under Azaña's Presidency became a period of persecution for the army. We were reduced, destroyed and humiliated by the actions of this Government. Yet we stayed loyal and firm at our posts. Marxism became more and more powerful in Spain, aided largely by the Government itself. Spain moved quickly toward final disaster. There was a short period of rest during the Government of the Rightist forces under Lerroux and Gil Robles. Gil Robles, then Minister of War, called Generals Fanjul, Goded and myself, together with other high military powers, and ordered us to reorganize the Spanish Army, which as always remained the vital symbol of the nation's international defense. We got down to work as quickly as we could. But the dissolution of Parliament, causing the fall of the Rightist Government, abruptly ended our efforts.

People feared a coup d'état by the army. The army, however, was not willing to strike against the President of the Republic, Alcalá Zamora, who was actually the man principally responsible for the critical political situation Spain was facing at the moment. I say he was the most responsible, because, since the Communist revolt of Asturias in 1934, it was he who had been spoiling the efforts of men who had tried to save the mother country under the Republican regime in a genuinely legal and patriotic manner. Alcalá Zamora definitely refused to allow punishment of the leaders of that revolt, and he commuted the death sentences given by the

Tribunals in charge of that affair. This attitude of Alcalá Zamora should not be surprising if we stop to consider that there had long since existed secret pacts (of which the Grand Orient was well aware) between himself and several of the leaders of that revolutionary movement and these pacts had a definitely Communist complexion.

Then we lived in constant turmoil and anguish until the elections of February 16, 1936. The unexpected victory in the Cortes of the Popular Front once more gave Azaña the reins of power. And Alcalá Zamora was deprived of the Presidency of the Republic by those same leaders of the Asturias revolution whom he had previously tried to protect. At the time I was Chief of the General Staff. Shortly after, the new Government gave me a skylight promotion, sending me to the Canary Islands. True, I was the highest military Commander there, but they felt the Islands were far enough to prevent my ever trying to interfere with their actions. For a while I hesitated. I did not really know whether or not I should accept that new post. Finally I went. It was my duty to Spain to go wherever I was sent, and Spain came before anything else.

My post at the Canary Islands did not prove as easy as I had expected. Communism had taken deep root there. On May 1, Labor Day in Spain, I received information that the English Consulate was to be attacked and burned, "to celebrate the festivity of the day." I made up my mind that such a thing should not happen as long as I was the Commander in the Islands. I provided the Consulate with armed protection. Immediately the Civil Governor got in touch with me, saying my action was a provocation to the masses. I replied that I would rather provoke them than have to wait until the damage was done; and that the source from which I had received my information deserved all my confidence. He then threatened to get in touch with the Government in Madrid. I told him to go ahead. Shortly afterwards I received a phone call from the Minister of War. He wanted to know why I had mobilized the soldiers at my command. I explained the situation, and after much arguing, succeeded in keeping things as I had arranged them.

I knew that the final disaster would not be long in coming. I had carefully studied the Russian prob-



lem, and I was familiar with the lies of the Soviet rule and with the slavery it actually means for the laboring classes. The fact that men of science and courage had let themselves be won by those nefarious anti-nationalist ideas worried me deeply. I had learned with horror that a "League of Friends of Russia" had been established in Madrid, and that among its members it counted Doctor Gregorio Marañón. I could not understand how a man of his worth could have been attracted to it. The "League of Friends of Russia" had as its principal aim that of attracting to the Soviet cause the greatest scientific, literary and artistic authorities of the different countries.

Many people have asked themselves why the army did not strike at once, since it saw so clearly the disaster that the triumph of the Popular Front meant for Spain. The answer is quite simple. There was no army fully organized. I was forced to give up that reorganization almost at the very outset. I was not in a position to count on the army as much as I needed for an enterprise of such tremendous responsibility. The army contained a number of suspicious elements. Some were definite supporters of the Popular Front, since their careers had been furthered by the Leftist Governments, especially those presided over by Azaña. Others were bound by secret understandings with the Grand Orient. It is a fact today that most of the officers with the Marxist forces are Free Masons. This fact has been proved by at least two different documents; one published in the Madrid newspapers, entitled: "Masonry affirms its activity"; and the other found by the Falangistas in Toledo at the "Grand Regional Lodge of the Center of Spain" (*Gran Logia Regional del Centro de España*). In these documents the "brother Masons who are commanding troops of militias," as the sadly famous Lieutenant-Colonel Mangada, are described as "liberators."

In my opinion, Free Masonry, with all its international influence, is the organization principally responsible for the political ruin of Spain, as well as for the murder of Calvo Sotelo, which was executed in accordance with orders received from the General Secretary of Free Masonry in Geneva. These orders were brought to Spain by the then Minister of the Interior, Señor Barcia.

The execution of Calvo Sotelo at the hands of Assault Guards in full uniform marked the beginning of a series of murders that were to be committed before the proclamation of a Soviet State in Spain. We knew that, too. Then we realized there was no time to lose if Spain were to be saved from their schemes.

On July 18, 1936, the army raised the flag of Nationalism in Morocco. At once I left by plane to join them. Captain Bolin had brought a plane for me. No one in the Islands knew my destination. In Morocco I placed myself at the head of my men and began the war of liberation.

At the beginning it was not an easy task. There was no time fully to reorganize the army, and the pending immediate proclamation of the Soviet State had forced us to strike ahead of time. We could not

allow the Soviets to make their move before our plans could be realized.

Soon I realized that the Spanish Nationalists were forced to fight not only the Marxist Spaniards but also the foreign powers which favored Communism. Russia immediately came to the help of the Popular Front both with men and war material. And yet, most of the foreign "volunteers" were not actually Russian. In fact, Russia fomented and nursed this war, patronizing it with its own international political interest; but she gave the least direct help in men, money and material. The majority of the "volunteers," enrolled by the USSR in the name of the Popular Front, were French, Belgians, Czechs, Germans and anti-Fascist Italians.

The word "volunteer" hardly describes them. They were enlisted at high prices principally in Bordeaux, Marseilles and along the French-Catalonian frontier. We have documents in our hands definitely proving this statement, such as letters we found among the papers belonging to Reds we had captured or on corpses we had buried. These letters, addressed to France, contained bitter complaints against "those who have fooled us, sending us to a cruel, bloody war which we have to fight under terrible threats, sacrificing our honor and life without glory." Most of these letters were written by Frenchmen to their families in France.

As for war material the majority is Russian; but there is also some from France, Czechoslovakia and Belgium. Many of the airplanes have an English type of motor, or were manufactured in Russia by English technicians. The majority of the planes, however, are French, some belonging to the French Army, models which as yet have not been used in France, and which were imported by the Reds with the permission of the Minister of the Air, Pierre Cot.

Thanks to the money of the Bank of Spain millions of gold pesetas were stolen and transferred to foreign countries, most of which were deposited in the Bank of France and its branches. Any number of fraudulent arms deals were transacted. For instance, we captured a boat carrying war material to Valencia. We took this material to Seville, and there we discovered that all of it was obsolete and perfectly worthless. Yet, it had been paid for by the Valencia Government at an exorbitant price with the money which had been stolen from the Bank of Spain.

We have been fighting a cruel war. Victory has been ours all along. I cannot help feeling gratified at the present outlook. Once more, Spain in saving herself is saving a whole civilization. Our war is actually nothing but the world's battle between Communism and anti-Communism. In short, right on our Spanish soil we are solving the problem which, without our Nationalist movement, would undoubtedly have meant the end of Europe. It has often been asked in foreign countries what help is being given us by Italy, Germany and Portugal? The answer is simple: the help we have received from these nations has been moral, the kind of moral support which gives us confidence. Not one

inch of Spanish land has been given or is promised to anyone. Not one piece of armament has been received by our forces as "a gift" or "contribution." Everything we have acquired since the beginning of the war has been fully paid for, and paid only with *Spanish* money belonging to *Spaniards*. We have obtained no loans from foreign countries—although we have had a number of offers, from nations both on this and the other side of the Ocean. We have invariably refused them. Nationalist Spain, is paying for this war of liberation herself from the money which has been contributed by the sacrifices of true Spaniards.

Naturally, in the future, when Spain is once more free and independent, our international relations will undoubtedly look with favor on nations which have openly supported our patriotic movement rather than on those who have openly opposed us, or chosen to keep an indifferent attitude, waiting for the outcome of the war. To me it seems a little strange that countries such as England and the United States, for instance, should still believe enough in the Valencia Government to maintain diplomatic relations with them. But then, they may have secret reasons unknown to us, which would amply justify that attitude. We shall not harbor any grudge because of their lack of faith in our movement. After all, we are fighting for Spain, and it is Spain's opinion and welfare about which primarily we must think.

The Spain of the past is ended. There will be no more privileges because of birth and economic position. And this, too, gives me a chance to clear up another point widely discussed in foreign countries. Men, who like Juan March, have supported our Nationalist movement financially, have received nothing in return for that help. Neither will they receive anything in the future. They have done so of their own free will, as have so many thousands of other Spaniards. Everyone has given to the cause according to his means, and given freely and voluntarily. They are all Spaniards who love Spain, and the reward they expect for their investment is a greater, better and happier Spain. Foreign nations should realize that at last Spanish patriotism has fully awakened; that at last Spaniards are thinking only of Spain and its welfare; that personal gains and advantages have been discarded; and that today the aim of all and everyone of the Spanish people, noble or plebeian, rich or poor, old or young, is the final victory of Spain over the Soviet influence that has tried to destroy her.

Soon Madrid will be a Nationalist town. And shortly afterwards the whole of Spain. Then will come the end of the fighting and will begin the period of forgiveness. We shall clean up the country of all the poison that has sickened her for so many years, and end the caricature of democracy that gave ample field for so many political intrigues. Spain will become a corporative state where law and order and the rights of men will be fully guaranteed and protected.

I did not start this movement because I was politically ambitious. Politics has never interested me. To become the supreme power of my native

country is far from my thoughts. I am a soldier, and as such I with my comrades have raised the flag of Nationalism. Spain was in the hands of anarchy: anarchy in Parliament; anarchy in business; anarchy in the streets. Someone had to move and save her from the final disaster, and in saving her save the whole of the western civilization. That is what prompted the Nationalist Movement—the absolute, certain belief that unless something were done, Spain was finished forever. What did I expect to achieve from it, from this unavoidable bloodshed? The salvation of Spain. That is all.

What the future shall be, I cannot as yet say. It will be left to the Spanish people to decide. We shall maintain a military dictatorship, guaranteeing law and order for as long a period as the country needs to regain confidence in itself, and to decide which form of regime it wishes to be ruled by. Whether it will be a monarchy or a republic, I cannot possibly say, because I shall have nothing to say about it. It will be Spain's privilege and duty to speak and decide. And whatever she decides we shall accept.

Our fight has been hard and bitter. Nationalist Spaniards have had to face not only their brothers poisoned by the Communist ideal, but foreign forces as well. The non-intervention pact proposed by the French Government was nothing but a lie; no one was ignorant of the attitude of Blum's Government toward the Barcelona and Valencia Marxists. And no one was ignorant either, of the definitely proved agreement between the French and Spanish Freemasonry. Moreover, in this case, the "non-intervention" idea was merely a maneuver of certain countries interested in spreading revolution and Communism under the cloak of what they choose to term "democracy."

As far as we are concerned we will not accept any intervention, definitely refusing to talk or establish agreements with those whose international action tends to the ruin of Spain. We live the war just as it was started, with our deep patriotic faith, without changes or deviations. We want Spain one and undivided, under the rule of a new, strong State, a State which will watch social justice so closely that there will not be a single Spanish home without a hearth, and not a single Spanish laborer without his bread. We fight for a Spain worthy of its history, for a Spain truly Christian, a Spain which will once again hold the respect and honor of foreign nations.

This end is now quite near. And the day when I shall see our flag, the flag of the new Spain, gloriously waving over all Spanish territory, I shall consider my efforts fully rewarded, and my goal finally attained. Spain will have been saved, and in saving herself she will have written one more glorious page in her glorious history by saving the whole of Europe as well from the threat and danger of Communism.

The battlefields of our country, soaked in the blood of our brothers, will be remembered in the years to come as the battle-fields where the fate of a whole continent and of a whole civilization, was decided.



# THE WITCH PYRES FLAME ON SALEM'S ANCIENT HILL

The President recites an old fable

PAUL L. BLAKELY, S.J.

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WHAT bright young man, I wonder, suggested to the President to say in his address on Constitution Day that "again and again the convention voted down proposals to give justices of the court a veto"?

His statement has exactly the historical value of the old story that the godly citizens of Salem used to burn witches.

Salem never burned a witch, and the Constitutional Convention of 1787 never considered even one proposal "to give justices of the court a veto." Had the proposal been made, Madison would certainly have incorporated it in his notes. But he seems never to have heard of it. Nor does any other observer whose notes have been published—Pierce, Yates, King, Paterson, Hamilton, or McHenry—seem to have heard of it.

The proposal was never made. In his haste to score a point against the Court to which he recently raised a Klansman, Mr. Roosevelt fell into a serious historical error. What he had in mind was, possibly, the plan to create a Council of Revision. I discussed this plan in AMERICA for March 6, but since the President has again given currency to a misrepresentation of history, it may be well to repeat, in part, what I then wrote.

On May 29, 1787, Edmund Randolph, of Virginia, introduced fifteen Resolutions to correct and amend the Articles of Confederation. The eighth of these Resolutions refers to a Council of Revision.

Resolved, that the Executive and a convenient number of the National Judiciary, ought to compose a Council of revision with authority to examine every act of the National Legislature before it shall operate & every act of a particular Legislature before a Negative thereon shall be final: and that the dissent of the said Council shall amount to a rejection, unless the Act of the National Legislature be again passed, or that of a particular Legislature be again negatived by . . . votes of the members of each branch.

On June 4, after discussing whether the Chief Executive should be one person or three, or one person with a restraining council of some sort (a plan which I commend to the President's consideration), the Resolution was brought up. "Mr. Gerry doubts," wrote Madison in his *Notes*, "whether the Judiciary ought to form part of it, as they will have a sufficient check agst. encroachments on their own de-

partment by their exposition of the laws, *which involved a power of deciding on their Constitutionality.*" (Italics inserted.) Gerry offered an amendment allowing the Executive to negative any legislative act "which shall not afterwards be passed by . . . parts of each branch of the national Legislature." Rufus King, of Massachusetts, "seconds the motion, observing that the Judges ought to be able to expound the law as it should come before them, free from the bias of having participated in its formation." The Convention seemed to think that the Resolution made the judges legislators, and voted to postpone further consideration.

On June 6, Wilson moved to reconsider, "remark- ing the expediency of reinforcing the Executive with the influence of that Department," namely, the "national Judiciary." Madison "2ded the motion." The Executive sorely needed the aid of the judges in this Council, he thought. "The Executive Magistrate would be envied & assailed by disappointed competitors: His firmness therefore wd. need support;" moreover, "*He would stand in need of being controuled* as well as supported. An association of the Judges in his revisionary capacity wd. both double the advantage and diminish the danger." (Italics inserted.)

Madison then reviewed the objections against the plan, but with less than usual wisdom. He found no great weight in the contention that "the Judges ought not to be subject to the bias which a participation in the making of laws might give in the exposition of them." As to the objection that "the Judiciary ought to be separate & distinct from the other great Departments," he admitted the principle of separation, but felt "there wd. in truth however be no improper mixture of these distinct powers in the present case." The Resolution merely proposed "the utility of annexing the wisdom and weight of the Judiciary to the Executive." After further debate the Convention rejected the plan by a vote of eight States to three.

The motion then rested until July 21, when James Wilson, of Pennsylvania, called it up. He deemed the Resolution so useful that it was "incumbent upon him to make another effort." How far Wilson, as well as Madison, two of the ablest men in the Convention, was from attacking the Court's power

of judicial review, can be seen in a quotation from Wilson's argument on July 21.

The Judiciary ought to have an opportunity of remonstrating against projected encroachments on the people as well as on themselves. It has been said that the Judges, as expositors of the Laws, would have an opportunity of defending their constitutional rights. There was weight in this observation; but this power of the Judges did not go far enough. Laws may be unjust, may be unwise, may be dangerous, may be destructive; and yet may not be so unconstitutional as to justify the Judges in refusing to give them assent. Let them have a share in the Revisionary power, and they will have an opportunity of taking notice of those characteristics of a law, and of counteracting, by the weight of their opinions, the improper views of the Legislature.

Thus Wilson, while he strongly asserted the Court's power of judicial review, felt that it should be given "a share in the Revisionary power." Madison followed Wilson with an earnest plea to give the judiciary, acting with the Executive, an additional opportunity of defending the country against improper legislation. The Council on Revision would be "useful to the Community at large as an additional check agst. a pursuit of those unwise & unjust measures which constituted so large a part of our calamities." But after a long debate, the Resolution was again defeated.

Yet Madison and Wilson had not abandoned the fight. On August 15, Madison moved the Resolution in an amended form.

Every bill which shall have passed the two houses, shall, before it becomes a law, be severally presented to the President of the United States, and to the judges of the supreme court for the revision of each. If upon such revision, they shall approve of it, they shall respectively signify their approbation by signing it; but if, upon such revision, it shall appear improper to either, or both, to be passed into a law, it shall be returned, with the objections against it, to that house in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the objections at large upon their journal, and proceed to reconsider the bill: but if after such reconsideration two-thirds of that house, when either the President, or a majority of the judges shall object, or three-fourths, where both shall object, shall agree to pass it, it shall, together with the objections, be sent to the other house, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered; and if approved by two-thirds, or three-fourths of the other house, as the case may be, it shall become a law.

Wilson seconded the motion. Charles Pinckney, of South Carolina, "opposed the interference of the Judges in the Legislative business: it will involve them in parties, and give a previous tincture to their opinions." Gerry, of Massachusetts, noted that the new Resolution "comes to the same thing with what has already been negatived." When the question was put the Resolution was defeated by the vote of eight States to three. Nothing more was heard in the Convention of 1787 about the Council of Revision.

Madison's *Notes* is easily accessible. If I have misunderstood the plan to create a Council of Revision, or misrepresented any argument for or against the plan, I can be readily corrected, and I hope that I shall be. But until I am shown to be in

error, I hold to the following obvious conclusions:

1. There is an essential difference between a veto on legislation to be exercised conjointly by the President and the Supreme Court, and a veto to be exercised by the Court alone.

2. The latter form was *never* discussed in the Convention. Consequently, Mr. Roosevelt is in error in stating that it was proposed in the Convention, and rejected "again and again."

3. The veto on legislation and judicial review are powers operating in distinct branches of government. The first is restricted to the Executive, the second to the courts.

For reasons best known to himself, the President declines to consider this obvious distinction.

a) The President alone can veto an Act of Congress. The effect is to "nullify" the Act, preventing it from going into effect, unless Congress re-enacts it by a vote of two-thirds.

b) Contrary to the President's insinuation in the address of September 17, the Supreme Court has never asserted or exercised a veto on legislation. Its power over legislation is restricted to judicial review of a case brought before it *after* the legislation has been in force.

Over Acts of Congress, or of the several legislatures, the Supreme Court has never asserted any other authority. The Justices may privately hold a law to be "unjust, unwise, dangerous, destructive," to quote Wilson, or even wholly at variance with the fundamental law and will of the people. But the Court never acts until, in a case before it, a complainant recites that a right or rights protected by the Constitution has been infringed upon or destroyed by a legislative enactment. It then becomes the Court's duty, under the plain terms of the Constitution, to decide the justice of the petitioner's complaint.

4. The Court never rejects, nullifies, or destroys a legislative act. It simply decides whether or not a right protected by the Constitution has been invaded by a particular act. The supreme law of the land is the Constitution; in case of conflict every other law must yield. The Constitution cannot be overturned by the will of any legislature, or by the fiat of a political majority, however great. It is the solemn duty of the Supreme Court to declare what the law is, be the consequences what they may; but should the people hold that the law of the Constitution must be changed, they can alter it in the manner prescribed in the Constitution. Until they so act, the Constitution must prevail.

5. Through the power of judicial review, the Supreme Court declares and upholds the will of the people, expressed in the Constitution. Judicial review is emphatically not a veto on legislation, but a power inherent in courts sworn to protect minorities against the majority, and to shield all the people against usurpation of power or the unwarranted use of power temporarily vested in an executive or legislature. As long as the Supreme Court retains its constitutional powers and its independence, there can be no dictator in this country. Weaken its independence, destroy its powers, and a dictatorship is inevitable.



# WILL FORD WORKERS FOLLOW UNION ORGANIZERS?

The battle being fought at the Rouge River plant

M. J. HILLENBRAND

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CROWDED out of the limelight by recent international events, the continuing C.I.O. drive to organize Henry Ford's mammoth River Rouge plant still bears significantly on American social and economic trends. The motor company's failure to resist unionization will mark a complete turn of the industrial wheel set in motion by Mr. Lewis. Its success will mean a triumphant reassertion of the wide-open shop, uncollective bargaining if any, and the rest of big business' traditional principles and practice.

Long a symbol of recalcitrancy to labor organization, no other institution so epitomizes modern mass production as the house that Ford built, with its assembly lines, specialization and mechanization. Yet since Ford stock is also Ford's stock, he remains one of the few extant captains of industry in the original sense, owning, not merely controlling, his business, theoretically able to do anything he wants with it. If he weakens, laissez-faire and rugged individualism die for the tenth and last time—and American industry definitely enters a new era.

Impartial observation of the Ford set-up is as rare as a cold day in July. Depending on their rightness or leftness, writers and commentators parrot one of two myths while the true situation gets squeezed out between. The utopia of "benevolent Fordism" built by expert public-relations counsels and a tory press is just as distorted a picture as that of the oppressive tyranny, squeezing the life-blood out of half-starved, dehumanized automations, painted by professional radicals. Yet after all, union success or failure will depend not so much on how the *Detroit Free Press*, the *New Republic* or even Mr. Ford himself feel about it—but on the emotions, the wants, the leanings of the Ford workers themselves. Not that company policy and propaganda cannot set up powerful checks to unionization. Not that capable C.I.O. organizers cannot exert a persuasive influence. But the men on the line will cast the decisive votes.

As a psychological force, "open-shop Fordism" is more fable than fact. People think that somehow mysteriously, perhaps by vaccination, perhaps just by infection, Ford workers find themselves inevitably opposed to unions, repeating the master's

dictum. That may hold for the executive end of the business, but when I made it a point to inquire, to probe the opinion of \$6.00 per day men—I found no such ingrafted opposition. Many will grab at the chance to join a union; many others will join when the chance safely comes without grabbing for it. Ford workers are normal proletarians; they will plod along sweating, straining and grumbling till the ball actually starts rolling toward organization. Then, like other auto-plant workers, they will feverishly and numerously sign up.

Potential leaders are right within the plant today. Among 90,000, one is bound to find more than a handful of clever, able, ambitious, perhaps idealistic men to serve as first lieutenants under the union organizers. I remember a canny old Scotchman with a perpetual glint in his eye, quoting Marx, Lenin and Strachey like a veteran soap-boxer, but also ripping them apart with his criticism. He had brains, shrewd analytic powers, the gift of gab—a sure-fire leader among others.

Yet these men are not Reds nor even pinks; they do not want Communism. Extremists actually working for Ford, shouting for violent overthrow of the present order, are scarcer than flies in winter. Any large American university could match Rouge Communist for Communist.

Not that Ford workers have not a variety of complaints. They have. Though with staggered production, seasonal layoffs do not last as long as they once did, they still occur especially for that sizeable marginal fringe of men whose jobs hang on the difference between rush and merely normal business. Then, after all, the pay is not much to support a family on when the work is hard, and popular myth to the contrary, other companies are paying more. Because back in 1914 Mr. Ford startled everybody by setting a \$5.00 daily minimum, later twice raised to \$6.00 and \$7.00, his company has become synonymous with high wages. After the 1929 crash the level sank to a \$4.00 minimum; in 1935 it went up to \$6.00.

Apparently that last figure does not sound half bad. Not so apparent or so publicized was the *maximum* rate set for workers below foremen—\$6.80, for skilled mechanics, bricklayers, carpenters or what not. Thus the genial ground keepers who

wandered about spearing little bits of paper were to receive only eighty cents a day less than a sweating expert in the machine shop.

While some of Mr. Ford's idiosyncrasies may appear harmless enough, they provide a literal pain in the neck to his men. Whizzing about the plant constantly are gobs of chewing tobacco, for per-capita plug consumption probably hits a world high at Rouge. When you cannot smoke anywhere inside the grounds, you simply begin chewing. If you try to "sneak a drag," the chances are an inspector will drift around and snare you. Like a locust plague, inspectors hover all over the place, flashing shiny badges, prying, keeping an eye open for loafers and rule infractions. Of course, the workers resent this constant surveillance by euphemistically titled "service men."

But the work itself, on the line or anywhere else in the plant—is it as hard, grinding, monotonous, exhausting, dehumanizing as some describe it? Watch the men when they pile into one of the numerous Detroit-bound street cars leaving Rouge; in a few minutes half the load is asleep. Note the drawn, weary faces, the listless, energy-drained movements, the almost total lack of conversation. These things seem significant. With everyone so dog-tired, I have sometimes wondered just what good an eight-hour day accomplished. All this talk about extra leisure did not mean much more than a little longer to rest.

Though psychologists have often enough detailed the depressing effect on personality of mechanized, repetitious work, perhaps mass production of autos does not take so much out of a man in the long run. The number of middle-aged Ford employees, with years of experience on the line, is surprisingly high; but the other side of the picture shows literally thousands of burned-out, permanently debilitated men in Detroit and vicinity, those who could not stand the pace and were tossed on the human junk-heap.

There are simply two constitutional types: the sensitive, individualistic, artistic person whom Rouge mentally and physically wrecks, and the submerged, unesthetic, stolid plodder whom constant repetition can only dull, not unsettle. With his specialized movement become completely mechanical, the latter's mind is free to wander unrestrained for eight hours. While any generalization is out of the question, I do not think much constructive thinking results. I remember one determined young college man who memorized long poems before work to mull over on the line, tried to solve mathematical problems, to make silent orations on sundry topics, anything to keep his mind occupied and active. But he soon found himself repeating the same verse twenty times, muttering a single digit over and over again, as automatically he whirled a wheel and pushed a lever. Soon he lapsed into the usual psychic state of dull awareness, passive observation, and a physical, perhaps mental, attunement to the rhythm of the work, the roaring noise of the entire line.

Although enthusiasts sometimes forget the fact, no union is going to change essentially the mass-

production process, eliminating its dehumanizing effects on the worker. Organization may ameliorate conditions; it will not create a new method. Yet it appeals more forcibly to those sensitive and discontented types who find the method noxious.

Of course, sensitive or insensitive, no worker likes the speed-up with its ever-accelerating rush and strain and heave and jerk, a pace which keeps the sweat streaming and the muscles aching. Here is a point with universal appeal for the union organizers to stress. Once convinced that joining the United Automotive Workers will slow down the line, help obtain higher wages, the men will flock to sign up despite all the little printed cards Mr. Ford can distribute expounding his open-shop credo with its nominal right to work without external control. And other grievances like the lack of an effective seniority system, the perpetual nagging of straw-bosses and "pushers" provide additional motivation.

Against these various factors working for C.I.O. success, the company obviously possesses powerful counter-weapons, plenty of money to buy propaganda, plenty of pressure to sway editorial opinion. Since Mr. Ford's favorable position in American public opinion, his reputation for high wages, progressive reform and general good treatment of his employees have grown to almost a national tradition, many people who at least partially sympathized with the other auto workers will merely mutter: "Those dumb men don't know when they're well off—biting the hand that feeds them. Maybe General Motors and Chrysler needed a union to make them toe the mark, but not Ford. The Communists must be boring in!"

Anyone committed so definitely and so repeatedly against unionization as Mr. Ford will fight harder, spend more to win. A boost in wages always cools down the fervor of those workers to whom organization is not a principle but an expediency. And while annual labor turnover statistics for the Rouge plant would not precisely qualify as big-league batting averages, they are high enough to send plenty of new blood in, plenty of old blood out at every general firing and hiring. New blood doesn't boil as easily as old blood, especially when many drifting workers, some from the South, some from the West, have never before earned \$30.00 per week wages.

With an energetic squad of C.I.O. organizers combating these anti-union forces, hammering home points of grievance to waverers, the successful and permanent organization of Rouge hangs in the balance. The time is as ripe now as it ever will be, for, with the example of successful unionization in the other big auto plants, Ford workers don't want to be left out of the parade. Internal conflict in the auto union or its parent C.I.O., another flurry of wildcat strikes, any of a hundred possibilities can reverse the trend. But if the slogan "American labor on the march!" has fast become trite through repetition, union success at Rouge will prove it still expresses a vital fact. And though it is rather difficult to imagine Mr. Ford sitting at a conference table collectively bargaining with his worker-representatives—that is no reason why it cannot happen.



# WITH SCRIP AND STAFF

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## SEEKING A SPOUSE CAUTIOUSLY

WHEN Elizabeth Samson, fair Quaker maiden, decided to marry Edward Sims, her first step was to write a letter to her local Meeting in Pennsylvania, stating that she had prudently and prayerfully considered the eligibility of Mr. Sims, an accredited fellow-member of the Society of Friends, residing in New York State. Her decision, as was natural, resulted from a proposal that had been made to her, also prudently and prayerfully, by the said Mr. Sims, who judged that many very notable advantages might ensue from a union of their individual lives. Having her parents' approval, she petitioned the Meeting to permit her to marry him.

The letter, so Mrs. Sims informs me, quite a number of years having now passed since this important event, was received by the Meeting at one of its regular sessions. After a period of silent consideration before the Lord, the Meeting judged that the matter was worth acting upon, and appointed four Overseers of the marriage, two men and two women.

The task of these Overseers was to communicate with Mr. Sims' local Meeting in New York State, ascertain from them the regularity of the young man's compliance with the discipline of the Meeting, and in general to determine whether in their opinion and that of persons more practiced in such matters he would be a suitable match for Miss Samson. An eye would be cast upon his business standing, his use, or non-use, of intoxicating liquors, his manner of language, quietness of disposition, and other such indications. Theoretically, the Meeting was free to appoint such Overseers as it preferred, but in point of fact the bride-to-be proposed her own selection, which was graciously accepted as proper.

At the same time, Mr. Sims wrote to his own local Meeting in New York State, announcing his intention to wed Elizabeth Samson. His letter was thoughtfully considered, and a communication sent to the Meeting in Pennsylvania.

When the Overseers had completed their work, a special meeting was called not in the Meeting House but in the home of the bride's parents. There the Overseers reported favorably as to the parties and the compliance with State laws, the needed permission was granted, and the date of the marriage arranged for. This preliminary procedure took about six weeks.

Edward and Elizabeth were mindful of the words of the New York Yearly Meeting's book of Discipline: "It is tenderly recommended that Friends keep to the simple and solemn form of our marriage ceremony." So they did not invite a multitude to the Meeting House. Besides the bride and groom, there were present only the Overseers, the respective parents and six other persons as additional wit-

nesses, making a total of sixteen. The bride did not wear a conventional wedding gown, but merely a new white dress, which could be used again on various occasions. There was no giving away; but after the guests were seated the bride and groom walked in and sat down in silence at their appointed places.

After a period of meditation, the groom arose, took Elizabeth by the right hand, and said: "In the presence of the Lord, and before these witnesses, I take thee, Elizabeth Samson, to be my wife, promising with Divine assistance, to be unto thee a loving and faithful husband, as long as we both shall live." And Elizabeth did in like manner.

A certificate was then signed by the married pair, and a postnuptial meeting took place, lasting about twenty minutes. There was a certain convention as to who should feel moved to speak at this meeting, the pair themselves, parents and Overseers being given preference. However, sometimes the Spirit moved others to offer a few remarks.

The certificate was signed by all present, so that, as Mrs. Sims observed: "We have a permanent record of all who were present at our wedding."

In these days when many a young couple grumbles at the precautions the Catholic Church places about the Sacrament of Marriage, it is instructive to see that there are many points of correspondence between Catholic matrimonial discipline and that of the Friends.

There is the insistence that marriage should be governed not by mere whim or passion, but by prudent and prayerful consideration. Mixed marriages are definitely discouraged. Says the New York book of Discipline;

Marriage, being a union of spiritual as well as of temporal interests, presents considerations of vast importance. When the parties are united in religious faith they find not only a firmer bond of union, but greater strength and influence in fulfilling all the undertakings of life. Friends should seek for Divine guidance. They should early acquaint their parents or guardians with their intentions and seek approval, that they may be preserved from the far-reaching evils which may follow hasty and ill-considered marriage.

Elaborate notices to the Meeting correspond to the banns, with similar purpose of establishing freedom and fitness of the parties to marry. Like the Catholic Church, the Friends' usage insists upon official religious witnesses; and there is a point of correspondence in the fact that the actual wedding is followed by a Divine service—with us, the Nuptial Mass.

"I only know personally," said Mrs. Sims, "of two Friends' marriages which have ended in divorce, and in both instances there were from the outset marked signs of instability and dissension."

All of which shows that the Church, in safeguarding a Sacrament, fosters much natural wisdom as well.

JOHN LA FARGE

## PAROLE

IN the last week of July, a resident in a Western State picked up his shotgun, and went out to murder four men against whom he had a grudge. He could not find the fourth man, but he made up for this deficiency by shooting this man's little grandson who, fortunately, recovered. But the first three he killed.

A few weeks ago, the murderer came up for sentence. The evidence was not contested, and as this State does not inflict the death penalty, he was sentenced to life-imprisonment three times, once for every murder. Then, somewhat unexpectedly, the judge added, "These three life-sentences are to run consecutively."

Why is it that many courts are inflicting penalties which, on their face, are absurd? We hear of another court in which the sentence for murder was life plus 199 years, with the specification that the life sentence was to be served first. In a third case, involving kidnaping and the death of the victim, the penalty was 299 years.

The answer to the question is "the parole board."

It is a popular sport at the moment to throw stones at the board. Ordinarily, however, the powers of a parole board are controlled by statute, and provisions may be mandatory. Granted that the board follows the prescriptions of the law, it cannot be blamed. The guilty party here is the legislature which authorized the statute, and our careless selves.

Periodically, we Americans look at the crime record, and are carried away on a wave of hysteria. When the wave recedes, some wreckage is seen, but nothing constructive has even been planned, much less done. In some jurisdictions, it must be admitted that the parole board is the convict's best friend—in the wrong sense. But even in these instances, the board can hardly be charged with full responsibility if immediately on his release, the convict resumes his career of crime at the point where it was interrupted by the police. The real responsibility lies with the legislature which established the board, and then filled it with grafters and politicians, and with us who did not check the legislature.

Parole as a theory and parole in practice are often totally at variance. The reason for this is that the people, by supposition masters of the legislature, are indifferent when the legislature creates a parole board with restrictions which make it worse than useless. Instead of attacking the board, our point of attack should be the legislature.

A wise man said many years ago that a nation generally gets the kind of government it deserves. In some of the States we are getting unspeakably bad government, for which we pay an exorbitant price in taxes. If the parole board is the convict's best friend, next to the unethical lawyer and the politician whose influence is always for sale, the blame is ultimately ours. Perhaps the honest and competent members of parole boards can help us here. If they do not, and the system goes on unreformed, we fear the system is doomed.

## EDITOR

### "WILD-CAT" STRIKES

UNAUTHORIZED strikes have been repudiated by Homer Martin, and employers are permitted to discharge workers who call them, or take part in them. The United Rubber Workers, one of the first groups to use the "sit-down" strike, have repudiated it as unwise and illegal. It is encouraging to know that some C.I.O. leaders no longer think it good tactics to adopt methods which only enrage employers and alienate the support of the public. If the C.I.O. hopes to succeed in its task of organizing the automobile industry, particularly as represented by Henry Ford, it will need that support.

### MORE BREAD AND B

AS the year enters its last quarter, we are still in doubt as to the number of the unemployed. Estimates have ranged from 4,000,000 to 8,000,000, and President Green, of the A. F. of L. accepts the latter figure. It is not probable that the nondescript voluntary census recently ordered by the President will end in anything beyond another estimate, even less reliable than that which has been furnished by the labor organizations.

Probably no Government in history has spent so much money in an effort to solve a problem the magnitude of which it does not even pretend to know. It is possible that some of this money was well spent. But a glance at some of the "public works" financed by the Government will show that most of it could have been spent more intelligently. Precisely how much has been expended on various forms of Federal relief, disguised and undisguised, is a matter that remains as doubtful as the number of the unemployed, but the sum cannot be less than \$6,000,000,000. The uncertainty which clothes every feature of this Government project is inevitable since the Government has undertaken to solve a problem about which it knows not much beyond the fact that it is huge.

Unfortunately, the most serious phase of the problem is not the billions in money that have been expended. What we shall be dragooned into spending in the future is far more serious. No Government which begins to provide the populace with bread and circuses can close the bread-box and dismiss the circus with a wave



## CIVIL SERVICE

POLITICAL patronage, or the custom of hiring Government employes not because they are capable, but as a reward for party service, is styled by H. Eliot Kaplan, of the National Civil Service Reform League, "the biggest racket in America." Next to the crime racket, it undoubtedly is, although since the two are often closely connected, it is difficult to draw a line of distinction. Mr. Kaplan demands reform in the States as well as at Washington, but why not start with Washington? Once Congress can be reformed, the States and cities will fall in line. Let Washington begin.

## AND BIGGER CIRCUSES

of the hand. People are either tax-minded or they are bread-and-circus-minded. The first type is rare, and the second type never changes. The first type realizes that the bread and the circuses must be paid for by all the people. The second type is sure that the rich pay for them and ought to keep on paying.

Clearly this liberal spending cannot go on indefinitely. Its inevitable term is national bankruptcy. But it will continue as long as the people are not tax-minded, and the politicians, yielding to the demand for more bread and bigger circuses, insinuate that all the bills will be paid next month when a few more economic royalists and other tax-dodgers have been brought to book. That, of course, is a plain lie. Were they stripped of their last penny, the rich could not pay the Government's bills.

The Government can pay its bills in one way only; by compelling us to pay them. Taxes are not collected chiefly from the rich. They are collected chiefly from the poor. A Government "gift" is something taken out of the pockets of every man, woman and child in the United States. The Government never gave anybody a penny. It has none to give.

We observe that the Governors may meet with the President to find out whether anything that can be taxed is not now taxed. We hope the meeting will take place. New taxes, heavier taxes, are needed badly, and new and heavier taxes are about the only force that can turn a free-spending bread-and-circus Government out of power.

## SHADOW OVER THE COURT

EVEN to his admirers the address of the President on September 17 was, we venture to think, a disappointing performance. On the one-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Constitution, it was extremely depressing to listen to another attack on the Supreme Court, an institution which must be ranked with the wisest and most profoundly beneficial of the political instruments created by the Signers. It is wholly right and proper for the President to proclaim economic liberty. But with what hope can we labor to establish it, when the fundamental law which protects all our liberties is continually subjected to these insidious attacks?

The President's criticism of the legal profession is irrelevant and petty. Whether the framers of the Constitution were lawyers or farmers, tradesmen or gentlemen living on their landed estates, is a matter of no importance. As we read the Constitution, what engages our sober study is not the professional status of those who wrote the document, but what they wrote.

In point of fact, however, at least half of the delegates who met at Philadelphia in 1787 were lawyers. Washington, it is true, was not, but Hamilton most certainly was, and Madison, contrary to the impression which the President sought to convey, began the study of law in 1783. He, like Washington and Hamilton, had been and always remained a profound student of the legal framework of government and of practical politics.

Perhaps we are strangely fashioned, but it seems to us in no wise irregular to consult a member of the bar on the meaning of a clause in the Constitution. Nor can we find anything odd or unusual in the fact that men are accustomed to turn to the legal profession when they desire to know what their rights are, and how they may be protected. For the Constitution is, first and foremost, a legal document.

To this truth, overlooked by the President, the Constitution itself bears witness in styling itself "the supreme law of the land." (Article VI, 2.) The judges in the higher courts are, by supposition and usually in fact, men learned in the law, although Justice Black may properly be deemed an exception. Judges are assisted by their learned brethren, the members of the bar, men bred to the study of the law. Inevitably, then, the researches and the studies necessary to clarify the meaning of the law in given circumstances, thereby expediting the course of justice, are left, largely and with utter propriety, to the legal profession.

In an ordered world, this is as it should be. While no learned profession is isolated from the world of knowledge about it, every profession has its peculiar field. Doctors occupy themselves with the ailments of the human body, plumbers with the details of their useful work, lawyers with the law and the Constitution. We consult them, as a particular need presses, not indiscriminately, but with choice of the profession. Would Mr. Roosevelt have

us turn to the lawyer in illness, or summon the physician to minister with kindly art to our leaky water-pipes? Does he expect the Plumbers Union, No. 329, to build up a *Corpus Iuris*, together with a wise and philosophic interpretation of the law?

We are quite unable to go along with the President in his contention that the Constitution is a layman's document. To repeat, and with emphasis, it is a legal document. True, its clarity of phrase is notable, but Hamilton, Madison and Jay thought it well, and even necessary, to write a fairly voluminous treatise in eighty-five chapters, explaining it to their countrymen! That fact hardly fits in with the President's persuasion that the Constitution is a layman's document, understood at sight and applied with ease to the intricate problems of life and government.

No such persuasion could be reached by one who had devoted days and nights throughout long years to a study of the Constitution. No written document can speak for itself, or interpret itself.

The Constitution was drawn up as the supreme law of a complex and untried form of government. It was to consist of a union of thirteen free and independent States, with provision for future States, and, in addition, for the new experiment of a Federal Government. A document of this nature may well stir questions upon the solution of which wise and good men will differ. The Constitution did stir "nice and intricate" questions, as Hamilton in the *Federalist* bears witness. It stirs them in these scarcely less troubled days. It will stir them when we are dust. Only a dictator before whom men must stifle their convictions or die, can do away with questions and differences of opinion. A written Constitution invites them—and protects those who utter them.

What American would have it otherwise? What lover of liberty could live under a government in which all differences of opinion were stifled by a ruler's fiat?

Out of the clash of views honestly held, vigorously defended, comes political salvation. To our own day, men equally patriotic, equally learned, disagreed on the powers of Congress under the general-welfare clause of the Constitution. Jefferson supported one view, Hamilton, the other. The Supreme Court has now spoken, and controversy is at an end.

Let this great Court be held as the final arbiter, subject only to the will of the people expressed not through a temporary political majority, but through amendment of the Constitution, and our lives and liberties shall be secure. Let this Court be persistently attacked by public officials, impeded in its functions by ill-advised legislation, or corrupted by appointments to its body that reek of partisanship, and we may well look forward to a dictatorship.

The President's oratorical attacks on the Court will hereafter, we venture to think, be discredited by thinking men. But we fear greatly when, as we turn our eyes to the Supreme Court, we discern on that august tribunal a masked and hooded figure.

## HIS LOVING CARE

TO all of us life brings its problems, its vexations, its heavy crosses. Since that has been man's lot ever since the Fall, it might be thought that mankind had built up a certain immunity to hardship. In one sense, a very narrow sense, that is true. But man is not like a plant, nor is he one of the lower animals. He has an intelligence, a memory, a will and an imagination that will not let him rest. No trouble comes to him singly. What hurts him is not only the present trouble, but the fear of troubles connected with it, and yet to be. He recalls the past, dwells on the present, imagines the future; and the process magnifies the ills from which he is actually suffering.

We who are trying to follow Christ have not wholly dissociated ourselves from this characteristic of the race. Perhaps by no effort of our own can we do that. But when we stir up our faith in Our Divine Lord, and remember His gracious promises, we can at least keep it from disturbing us to such an extent that we turn to sin, hoping to find in it an escape from reality, a release from present troubles. If we cannot do that, then it is fairly certain that our faith in Christ, our Healer and Consoler, is not a power that generates confidence, but merely a pious emotion which fades away when we most need strength.

Too many of us are like the ruler of Capharnaum in tomorrow's Gospel (Saint John, iv, 46-53); unless we see signs and wonders we believe not. We seem to think that our lives should be a pleasure journey over a calm unruffled sea. When the skies grow dark and the storm blows up, instead of falling to work to avert shipwreck, we look for a miraculous deliverance. It is perfectly true that after we have done all that we can to avert an evil which threatens us, or God's work, or those dear to us, we can leave all the rest in God's hands. If it is necessary, He will intervene, even in a miraculous manner. But we must not look for miracles before we strip for action. There is a self-reliance that is utterly pagan because it puts self in place of God, and a self-reliance that is utterly Christian, because it works with God.

However, while we are struggling, we must not exact terms from God. Since He is all-wise, He knows what is best for us. If on this occasion our craft is to be swamped by the waves, well and good. It is not our part to tell Him how the boat ought to be fixed, or the correct way of dealing with the winds and the waves. The ruler of Capharnaum apparently thought that it would be necessary for Our Lord to go down to his house and lay His hands on the sick boy, and, perhaps, give him some new medicine. Jesus might have acceded literally to the ruler's request, but He did not. He merely answered, "Go thy way; thy son liveth."

When trouble comes, our work is to forget our worry in trying as best we can to cope with it, making use of every means, human and supernatural, at our disposal. When we have done that, we can leave the rest to Him. He will take care of us.



# CHRONICLE

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WASHINGTON. For the first time since the Department of Labor was organized in 1913, the A. F. of L. failed to invite the Secretary of Labor to its annual meeting. Miss Perkins' name was deliberately omitted from the list of speakers. . . . Speaking in Boston, Secretary Hull again urged a program of international reciprocal trade pacts in the interest of peace. . . . Sir Frederick Phillips, Under Secretary of the British Exchequer, and Secretary Morgenthau held conferences in Washington. No information was released concerning the subject of the talks. . . . Morrison Shafroth, chief counsel of the Internal Revenue Bureau and his assistant, Russell J. Ryan, did not believe it was proper for the Administration to order the Bureau of Internal Revenue to present names in the recent tax evasion investigations. Faced with the alternative of presenting the names or resigning, they resigned. . . . General Hugh S. Johnson, former NRA leader, declared the Administration was heading toward a dictatorship. . . . In a strongly worded note the United States objected to Japanese bombing of Nanking.

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HUGO L. BLACK. Mr. Black will not land in New York. He cancelled his reservations on a large liner, took a small boat, headed for Baltimore and Norfolk. . . . Attorney General Cummings admitted no investigation of Black was made. . . . An official of Mr. Cummings's department, William E. Fort, special assistant attorney general, and former law partner of Mr. Black, was described as having been a former Klan brother of Mr. Black. . . . Diggers into Senate archives revealed Mr. Black told the Senate seven years ago that an individual's past affiliations would almost certainly influence his future course. ". . . as a general rule, a man follows in the future the course that he has followed in the past," Mr. Black informed the Senate February 19, 1930. "Show me the kind of steps a man made in the sand five years ago and I will show you the kind of steps he is likely to make in the same sand five years hence." . . . New York's Congressman O' Connor was conducting a canvass to ascertain whether House members favored impeaching Justice Black. . . . Senator Walsh of Massachusetts declared that Mr. Black by "not disclosing his previous membership in the Ku Klux Klan" had obtained his Court seat "by deception." The Supreme Court appointed for Mr. Black's use a messenger who is both a Negro and a Catholic.

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THE AMERICAN LEGION. Legionnaires by the hundreds of thousands flocked to their annual convention in New York, the city from which they sailed for France twenty years ago to save the world for

democracy. The police handed over the city to the blue-clad hosts, who kept it for four days. . . . In his annual report, National Commander, Harry W. Colmery, urged his million followers to rouse the country to the danger threatening the independence of the judiciary and the American form of Government. . . . William Green asked the Legion to merge its forces with those of the A. F. of L. in a joint onslaught on Communism and other "isms." . . . Secretary Hull told the Legionnaires America could escape the tragedy of war only by steering a middle course between complete isolation from world affairs and entanglement in them. . . . Legion leaders avoided what critics have called "tin-cup tactics," waved away pension issues. . . . Daniel J. Doherty, of Boston, was elected National Commander. Father Frank Lawler, of Jacksonville, Ill., was elected National Chaplain. . . . The Legion attacked labor unions and employers alike for disregarding legal rights in industrial disputes, and vetoed a proposal favoring a "hands-off" policy in this field. The legionnaires voted to defend "certain basic American rights and institutions," called for a Congressional investigation of organizations which are serving alien powers or systems, demanded adequate national defense.

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THE PRESIDENT. Mr. Roosevelt approved the plan for a jobless census. Under it, letter carriers will deliver blanks to 31,000,000 homes. . . . A new national foundation to fight infantile paralysis would be erected, he announced. . . . The President increased the number of PWA jobs allotted under the new program to 1,253 projects, amounting to \$113,034,735 in grants and \$58,005,700 in loans. This concludes the allotment of projects under the PWA Extension Act of 1937. The PWA will continue indefinitely as a financial agency, and for several years as an inspection agency. . . . The President abolished the National Emergency Council, effective December 31. . . . In a Washington speech on the Constitution, President Roosevelt indicated the resolve to continue his efforts to pack the Supreme Court. In his speech, some grave misstatements of fact were detected. . . . The President left for a twelve-day tour of the Northwest. He will thus be away from Washington when Supreme Court Justice Black returns from Europe.

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SPAIN. Nationalist Spain accused Russia of submarine piracy in the Mediterranean. General Franco's headquarters claimed it possessed irrefutable proof that Russian submarines had attacked merchant shipping in the inland sea. . . . On the Cordoba front General Queipo de Llano's men beat back attacks by the Leftist forces. . . . Nationalist columns

to the east and south of Gijon crept closer to this last Leftist Biscayan port, after days of hazardous battling. Asturian defenders fled from the last section of the Leon-Santander railroad. Other Nationalist columns blasted their way along the coast and through the mountains. . . . The thunder of big guns and exploding mines shook Madrid. . . . Lifting of the siege of Oviedo which has held out fourteen months against Red forces appeared likely. General Mujica, heading a Nationalist army, captured the heights dominating Busdango, twenty-five miles south of Oviedo. . . . The British destroyer, Fearless, was bombed by an airplane, believed by the British to be a Leftist plane. . . . Opposition to Valencian Premier Juan Negrin by groups following former Premier Francisco Largo Caballero was reported.

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GENEVA AND NYON. The Council of the League of Nations referred the Chinese appeal against Japan to the Far Eastern Advisory Committee set up in 1933, in which the United States accepted non-voting membership. The committee met, did nothing except to invite the Governments of China, Japan, Germany and Australia to be represented on it. . . . September 20, the League of Nations Assembly refused to re-elect Red Spain to the Council, a hard blow for the Leftist Valencia Government. . . . Britain and France recognized Italy as a great Mediterranean power; Italy agreed to send representatives to a Paris conference of British, French and Italian naval experts to consider altering the Nyon arrangement to permit Italian participation, on an equal footing, in the Mediterranean anti-pirate patrol.

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SINO-JAPANESE WAR. As the sun rose, 300,000 Japanese soldiers on all Chinese fronts celebrated the Autumn Festival of the Imperial Japanese ancestors. Facing in the direction of his palace in Tokyo, they honored their Emperor by one minute's silence, then they faced toward the Chinese, began firing. . . . Artillery thundered without ceasing along the front northwest of Shanghai. Raiding Chinese bombers caused six widespread conflagrations in the Yangtzepoo district. . . . On September 18, Chinese men and women observed the sixth anniversary of "the Mukden incident," in which a broken rail on the South Manchuria Railroad furnished a pretext for Japanese seizure of Manchuria and Jehol. Chinese observance of the "incident" consisted of a vow to resist further Japanese invasion to the limit of their resources. . . . China formally protested to the United States that President Roosevelt's partial embargo on arms shipments was unfair to China, favorable to Japan. . . . The cholera epidemic in Shanghai assumed greater proportions, as it spread not only through the city but through the Yangtze Valley.

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NANKING AND THE NORTH. After bombing Nanking twice on September 20, Japan warned foreign diplomatic representatives in that city to flee be-

cause further aerial bombardments were contemplated. Foreign warships were told to move at least eleven miles upstream. United States Ambassador Johnson and staff boarded the gunboat Luzon. French and Italian embassies were moved to war vessels. To Japan's threat to annihilate Nanking, the United States and Britain entered vehement objection. Japanese aerial squadrons, nevertheless, appeared in the Nanking sky September 23, rained down a hail of death on the city. . . . Piles of dead bodies strewed the streets of Canton as Japanese bombs thudded into the streets. . . . In the North, Japanese columns occupied Laiyuan, a hundred miles southeast of Tatung. Nipponese troops poured on toward Yenmen Pass in North Shansi. From conquered Chahar their bayonets glittered in North-eastern Suiyuan. A wall of Japanese guns through Inner Mongolia to separate China and Soviet Russia was being gradually erected.

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FOOTNOTES. Pope Pius warned German pilgrims against "a new prophet, exalted to act and write against all those who wish to remain faithful." The reference was to Dr. Alfred Rosenberg, Hitler's pagan leader, informed sources said. The Vatican instructed its nunciature in Berlin to protest to the Nazi Government the anti-Catholic attacks in the German newspapers. . . . On the day on which Japanese military and naval authorities declared they would wipe Nanking off the earth, Britain's Government received a Japanese note advising that "Instructions have been sent again to the Japanese forces in China to exercise the greatest care in safeguarding non-combatants." The note expressed deep regret over the wounding of Sir Montgomery Knatchbull-Hugessen, British Ambassador to China. Japan said she would "take suitable steps whenever it was established that Japanese aviators killed or wounded intentionally or through negligence nationals of a third country," which proved acceptable to Britain. The Hugessen incident was declared closed. . . . The Soviets continued shooting their subjects. One factor in the purge was said to be Stalin's desire to kill off all opposition before the forthcoming elections. . . . Counting ballots is very slow in Argentina, but Dr. Roberto M. Ortiz, conservative, appeared to have clinched the post of President. . . . Police in Sofia, Bulgaria, discovered headquarters of a Balkan recruiting agency for the Spanish Communists. Hundreds of recruits were dispatched to Spain through this office, raiding police said. Large sums of foreign currency was found in the office. . . . In Paraguay, Provisional President Felix Paiva, declared martial law for two months. . . . In Coatepec, Vera Cruz, Mexico, Catholics forced open churches closed by the Government. . . . Vittorio Mussolini, twenty-one-year-old son of Premier Mussolini, landed in New York on his way to Hollywood, where he will study film methods for use by his Italian movie company. . . . Two Tsarist generals, White Russian leaders, vanished mysteriously in Paris. . . . The Mexican Government made peace with General Cedillo, dictator of State of San Luis Potosi.



# CORRESPONDENCE

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## GERMANY'S A BECKET

EDITOR: Words of praise for the inspired sermon of Cardinal Faulhaber (AMERICA, September 18) are out of place; awed silence is the nearest approach to a fitting tribute.

But it is truly meet and just to thank the Editor of AMERICA for bringing to us these fearless words of Germany's Saint Thomas à Becket.

It makes one feel so very humbly proud of our glorious heritage.

Paterson, N. J.

FILOMENA T. WANTER

## CIRCULATION

EDITOR: After reading a letter in AMERICA (September 11) in which it was stated that an effort was being made in a certain parish to increase the number of readers of your wonderful magazine, it occurred to me that what we are doing in our parish could be done in hundreds of other parishes.

First we sought and received permission from our pastor to sell AMERICA in front of the church after all of the Sunday Masses. Then we selected a few boys who were given the full commission on all of their sales for several weeks, after which a part of the commission was given to the parish school fund.

Winthrop, Mass.

JOSEPH P. HIGGINBOTHAM

## ACTION WANTED

EDITOR: John Wiltbye's *A Peak in Darien* (AMERICA, September 11) stirred my risibilities and gave me the heartiest howl of the Summer. The article is crammed with truth. Our primary and prep schools make the best mousetrap in the market, but who knows it, and when the authorities decline to answer letters of inquiry who can find out? I hope that our good Religious (and this includes the Jesuits) will muse over *A Peak in Darien* but not muse too long. What is wanted is action.

Chicago, Ill.

C. S.

## CATHOLIC BOOK WEEK

EDITOR: For some time a group of young Catholics in Boston have been considering the ways and means of conducting a well-organized campaign that would bring the attention of the public to books and periodicals both of and in accord with Catholic tradition. As the possibility of such a campaign grew into a probability, a committee was formed with a Catholic Book Week as its objective.

This committee, composed for the most part of library workers, hopes to make the third week in October (17-23) Catholic Book Week In Boston.

This week will have as its purpose the focusing of public attention on books written by Catholic authors, especially during the past quarter century, and will be characterized by an extensive campaign of publicity by press, radio and exhibitions. The main feature of the week will be the compilation and distribution of truly Catholic bibliographies in libraries, schools, churches and clubs.

The committee will appreciate any notice that AMERICA may give this campaign. It feels that this magazine is widely read in Boston, and that any publicity afforded the week in its pages will serve to stimulate the interest of Catholic Boston in Catholic literature and the necessity of Catholic Action in the literary field.

Boston, Mass.

SALLY D. CARROLL

## BLANKET CASTIGATION

EDITOR: Among the comments in AMERICA (August 28) is a blanket castigation of public utilities. I am connected with a public utility which individually does not deserve such criticism, and I am sure that careful consideration of the subject on the part of your commentator would show him that there are other such companies.

This "blanket-attack system" has become very popular of late, but I don't believe we are going to make much real progress in our attempts at social betterment until we learn that the swords of social justice and more abundant life have two edges, one of which we have forgotten to sharpen because the necks facing the other edge seem so much more vulnerable.

As a Catholic, I would prefer to see those publications which boast of presenting the Catholic viewpoint rise above the level of the mutual-condemnation group whose gospel is hate. If you will search out the heart of real utility abuse, you will find it among the security manipulators, and there you will also find abuses in wheat, corn, sugar, aluminum and other necessities which make the utility operators look like pikers.

Grand Rapids, Mich.

GEO. E. LUDWIG

## AID FOR SPAIN

EDITOR: Please accept the enclosed check for five dollars as my donation for the relief of the Catholics suffering the effects of war in Nationalist Spain. With it go my prayers that victory may come to them soon, and with it a righteous peace.

Jersey City, N. J.

C.

# LITERATURE AND ARTS

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## OUR OLDEST CATHOLIC WEEKLY RELINQUISHES ITS INDIVIDUALITY

THOMAS F. MEEHAN

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WITH the issue of September 19, the Cincinnati *Catholic Telegraph*, established in 1831, relinquishes its individuality as the oldest Catholic weekly to become a link in the chain of eighteen diocesan editions of the *Denver Register*. It is now the *Catholic Telegraph Register* owned by the Archbishop of Cincinnati and edited by a board of four diocesan priests. The retiring owner and editor since February 7, 1898 was Dr. Thomas P. Hart.

When in 1822 Bishop Edward Fenwick, O.P., the "Apostle of Ohio," took over the administration of the new diocese of Cincinnati that extended from the Ohio River to the Great Lakes, he soon found he would have to go abroad to seek funds to help him to carry on his work. Among the gifts he then received was a printing press which he brought to Cincinnati and set up in the Atheneum College near his cathedral. From this the initial issue of the *Catholic Telegraph*, an eight-page weekly was sent out, on October 22, 1831. The first editor was the Rev. James Ignatius Mullen, one of the priests of the cathedral, and associated with him was a convert, the Rev. Josue M. Young, later Bishop of Erie, Pa., a practical printer and also an excellent business manager. While it never had a national circulation the vigorous and authoritative editorial articles on important topics in the *Telegraph* were copied by other Catholic papers and gave it widespread influence and prestige.

Father Mullen, the first editor, was an able and remarkable cleric. He joined with Father John Power, of New York and Father Gabriel Richard of Detroit, in advising and directing the tour of the French publicist Alexis de Tocqueville through the United States and Canada, in 1831-32, the outcome of which was the historic *Democracy in America*. His father was William Mullen, an old-fashioned Irish schoolmaster, who kept the village school at Emmitsburg, Md. It was in his house that John Hughes, New York's famous Archbishop, lived while he worked on the farm of Mount St. Mary's Seminary, waiting a chance to be admitted there as a student, and he profited much scholastically by his association with the old schoolmaster. Father James Mullen does not seem to have harmonized

with his former Emmitsburg associate Dr. John B. Purcell, who was made second Bishop of Cincinnati, in 1833, for, the following year, he left there for New Orleans, where, until his death, September 24, 1866, he was pastor of St. Patrick's Church.

Before they entered the seminary for their theological studies both Father Mullen and Father Young spent some time at sea as sailors. Father Young, during his connection with the *Telegraph*, when there was a rush for "copy," recalling his old trade skill, would stand at a "case," "stick" in hand and "set up" his editorial, or other contributions, without waiting to write out his thoughts on paper.

Ohio was mainly settled by migrants from New England who carried with them all the malignant anti-Catholic bigotry that unfortunately made such an unpleasant reputation for that section of our country. Bishop Purcell recognized the value of the press in promoting the progress of the Church and defending its doctrines. A notable instance of this was in 1837, when he carried on a most successful debate that secured national interest with the Rev. Alexander Campbell, a ranting Baptist minister, founder of the sect bearing his name, who challenged any Catholic clergyman to meet him and on an equal footing to discuss religious differences. The *Telegraph* was the first publication in the United States to attack, in articles by Bishop Purcell, Newman's theory of Development. When Brownson, in his *Review*, during 1853, discussed the relations of the temporal order to the spiritual, and asserted the supremacy of the spiritual, the *Telegraph* sharply opposed his position as being inopportune and going too far. Although others of the Hierarchy agreed with Brownson, Bishop O'Connor of Pittsburgh joined Bishop Purcell in this view by articles in the *Metropolitan Magazine* and the *Pittsburgh Catholic*. The controversies of those days were fiercely vindictive and personal, and today it is difficult to realize the occasions or environment that called for denunciations of Brownson as an ignoramus, a heretic, a hypocrite and other equally uncomplimentary designations. During the anti-slavery agitation the *Telegraph* was a States Rights Southern partisan but, with



the breaking out of the Civil War, it moderated its opinions to give conservative support to the Union.

"We thought," said the editor, "that the South was imposed on by the North, but now individual opinion must yield to the obligation we owe to the Union." The *Telegraph* thus joined the New York *Tablet*, the Boston *Pilot*, the Pittsburgh *Catholic* and Brownson's *Review* in upholding the cause of the Union in contrast to the course taken by the New York *Freeman's Journal*, the *Metropolitan Record* and the Baltimore *Catholic Mirror*. These publications may be cited as representing Catholic opinion, in North and South respectively, on slavery and the other issues of the day that agitated the country from 1850 to 1865. A very interesting and informative paper on this subject was contributed by the Rev. Cuthbert E. Allen, O.S.B., to Volume XXVI of the *Records and Studies* of the United States Catholic Historical Society.

Archbishop Purcell's brother, the Rev. Edward Purcell, who was also his Vicar General, became editor in the early sixties and had as his assistant for ten years the Rev. Sylvester Rosecrans, later Bishop of Columbus. Father Purcell was a domineering autocrat who made himself and the paper very unpopular. He fancied he was a trained banker and in that field made unwise ventures that brought about bankruptcy in 1879, involving the Archbishop in a maze of harrowing trouble that hastened his death and left an intolerable load of debt and worry which had to be shouldered by his successor, Archbishop Elder.

Other notable editors were the Rev. J. F. Callaghan, Thomas F. Galwey, afterwards an editor of the *Catholic World*, and H. W. Garland, a distinguished convert. The troubles of the various editors were multiple and disheartening. At one time in the seventies, when the end seemed inevitable, the proprietor of the German weekly *Der Wahrheitsfreund*, rather than see the *Telegraph* go under, undertook the publication of both papers until the *Telegraph* was put on a profitable basis. In February 1898, Dr. Thomas P. Hart assumed control and what his record since has been has been briefly expressed in the words of Archbishop McNicholas formally announcing the taking over of the *Telegraph* by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati:

Dr. Hart has dedicated his great abilities to the publication of a Catholic paper in this community for nearly forty years. During this time, he has been the able and unofficial spokesman of the Church. Giving up his place in the medical profession, he took up the apostolate of the press as a real vocation.

In the name of the priests, religious and laity of the Archdiocese, I wish to thank Dr. Hart for his long and devoted service, for his self-sacrificing work for religion and country.

Dr. Hart will continue as the Editor Emeritus of the new official paper. It is to be hoped that he will frequently be a contributor to its columns.

Dr. Hart was one of the twenty-five Catholic editors, from fifteen different States, who met in Baltimore, Md., on November 10, 1889, incidental to the proceedings of the first Catholic Congress, November 11-12, and its commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of the Hierarchy of the United States. At this meeting preliminary steps were taken for the organization of the National Catholic Press Association which was the outcome of a convention held the following May at

Cincinnati. Dr. Hart has been a leading figure in all the activities of this National Press Association, and prominent in its councils. He is now engaged in the preparation of its detailed official history to be presented at the next assembly of the National Convention.

For the World Catholic Press Exhibition which was held in the Cortile della Pigna, Vatican City, from April to October, 1936, by direction of the Pope, Charles H. Ridder of the *Catholic News*, as Secretary representing the Catholic Press Association, directed the placing there of a most elaborate and instructive exhibit showing the present condition, and the previous development since 1809, of the Catholic press in the United States. According to the comprehensive statistics given by Mr. Ridder with this exhibit, there are now in the United States 4,631 Catholic publications of all kinds, with a total circulation of 8,990,657. These publications can be divided into 134 newspapers, circulation 2,396,516; 197 magazines, circulation 250,000. The newspapers total 9 dailies; 1 tri-weekly; 3 semi-weeklies and 131 weeklies. The 3,300 other units of the combined table are local and parish bulletins with a circulation of 1,740,000. The United States exhibit at the Vatican was voted its most elaborate and interesting feature and it received generous and general commendations. Mr. Ridder hopes to be able to bring the Catholic Press Association exhibit back to the United States and to make it one of the attractions of the World's Fair to be held in New York next year. For the thousands who will then visit the World's Fair it will be a potent factor in making the importance and the necessity of Catholic papers better understood, and by showing their most successful efforts and fruitful results give them a better impetus in the future.

It is notable that of the many papers started in the first half of the nineteenth century only two now survive: the Boston *Pilot* founded by Patrick Donahoe in 1836, and the Pittsburgh, Pa., *Catholic*, begun in March, 1844, by Bishop M. O'Connor. Boston had a Catholic paper before Donahoe's *Pilot*, the *Jesuit*, started September 5, 1829 under the auspices of Bishop Fenwick by a group of laymen called the Roman Catholic Auxiliary Society. It did excellent service until 1834 when, because of bad management and factional rows in the Auxiliary Society it became in the written opinion of Bishop Fenwick "an apple of discord and disunion among brethren of the same family." He withdrew his approbation and the paper ceased to exist. Boston was then without a recognized Catholic paper until Donahoe's *Pilot* appeared in 1836. Even then, as the lists of the papers having episcopal sanction printed yearly in the *Catholic Directory* seem to indicate, it was several years before the *Pilot* with this Bishop's *imprimatur* was included in that group. The first really Catholic weekly printed in the United States was Bishop England's *Catholic Miscellany* at Charleston, S. C. 1822; the first diocesan weekly Bishop Fenwick's *Catholic Telegraph*, Cincinnati, 1831, and the first weekly owned and published by laymen the *Truth Teller*, New York, 1825.

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## MOLLY

("He was through with her and no one else could comfort her. Speech could not ease her, nor silence give her peace.")

Anne Parrish in *Golden Wedding*)

Speech could not ease, nor silence give her peace,  
for there was time before her,—space and time and space;  
time without an answer, time that shrugged away,  
and space without a vista to frame a fading face.

Speech could not ease nor silence give her peace,—  
empty speech and silence until that silent last.

The promise of the future? Empty, empty too—  
a termite future crumbling the bright walls of the past.

JOSIAH TITZELL

## TO A YOUNG ARTIST

Do not forget that fundamental chords  
Long clanging in the cryptic breast of man  
Have been expressed by you. Allow no swords  
Of grief to make you helpless, who began  
Your days as one of them who understand  
More of life's mysteries than his fellows do.  
The fire has moved your brain and shaped your hand,  
And you have sipped truth's painful, dazzling brew.

Do not be tempted, in your loneliness,  
To take the mediocre as a balm;  
Nor in a fit of madness bend to press  
Close to your heart a stranger who deems harm,  
As he deems good, but trivial in its force.  
Remember how at birth you were endowed  
With magic sight, and let no violent course  
Of time flow you into a witless crowd.

HELENE MULLINS

## LIKE STRICKEN GRASS

Not with the late pale saffron on the hedge  
Nor the slower murmur of the last tired bees,  
With never the last of these few nervous wings  
That yet must leave the naked orchard trees—

With none of these dear things does summer go,  
But with a dark wind in the lower skies  
Will men look up, their faces quickly stilled  
Like stricken grass, keeping the season in their eyes.

LEO L. WARD, C.S.C.

## PURITAN YOUTH

I walked along a shaded lane  
And many weighty thoughts I had  
Befitting every serious lad  
Who strides along an English lane.

The many evils of our time,  
(I thought, and gathered from the hedge  
A wild rose dawning at the edge)  
The many evils of our time

Soon tarnish every youthful heart.  
(Will she be there beneath the tree?  
A hill, a turn and I can see.)  
Indeed there is no youthful heart.

Ah! there she stood against the yew,  
With that sweet mien, within the shade,  
Befitting any modest maid  
Who stands against an English yew.

We spoke: "The days are very sad."  
I watched her slow and silent tread,  
Then seriously she shook her head,  
And sighed; "Oh very, very sad!"

FRANCES FRIESKE

## AUTUMN SONG

The wide-winged swan of summer  
Goes sailing down the sky  
And through the grey-blue heavens  
Drifts down a mournful cry

Long-drawn, and sad, and distant  
And falling with the bird  
Beyond the brown-gold hilltop,  
Fainter, and then unheard.

Now is that whiteness vanished,  
That glory cast to earth,  
And song choked into silence  
When first we learned its worth.

The swan that flew in splendor,  
Cold and alone on high,  
Has brought us perfect beauty—  
Has shown us how to die.

KENTON KILMER

## SUMMER OLIVET

These are the love hours:  
From dusk to twelve till one,  
After the folding of the flowers,  
After the sinking of the sun,

When the tall trees and towers  
Assume their silhouettes—  
And we go not among the bowers  
Of remembrances and regrets,

But, though our courage cowers,  
Crawl where our Love lies prone,  
And the dropped olive sours  
Unripe upon a stone.

LEONARD FEENEY



# BOOKS

## PROPHET BALKS AT FACTS AND BAYS AT THE MOON

FLOODLIGHT ON EUROPE, A GUIDE TO THE NEXT WAR.

By Felix Wittmer. Charles Scribner's Sons. \$3.75

FELIX WITTMER has provided us with "A Guide to the Next War." He tells us what everybody knows, and leaves us guessing particulars which most of us should like to know. Europe is on the verge of a big explosion. So is the rest of the world. But whatever happens, or if nothing at all happens, this venture in prophecy is vague enough to safeguard whatever reputation the author may have. About the only wager that cannot lose is that Britain will be on the winning side, though John Bull will not declare himself until he is sure which side, with his help, is sure to win. For the rest, there is enough dynamite in any corner of the council chambers where wars are made to blow our civilization to bits.

The author did his best work in the clever captions of his fifty chapters. His statistics are encyclopedic, and at times eloquent. His illustrations are a decided aid toward creating the proper impression in the reader's mind. The whole story, like most books of the passing hour, is done in good readable journalese. And herewith, we conclude our few commendatory remarks about *Floodlight on Europe*. To check the accuracy of the 10,000 details gathered by the author would be a forbidding task, and an unnecessary one. It is much easier for the reviewer to pick flaws.

As a reporter of the present scene Mr. Wittmer is no better nor worse than the average run of reporters. As an historian, interpreting actual conditions in the light of historic antecedents, he is still entangled in the Deist, Rationalist tradition of the "Enlightenment." He betrays a Gibbonesque attitude toward Christianity. His allusions to the Medieval Church which had been "forbidden to think," and to the Inquisition, "whose cruelties reek to heaven," are an emotional hangover from his reading of distorted history. Ignatius Loyola was a "sinister pedant who burned tens of thousands," (!) who "trampled any virtue under his feet." In fact, "If the world were filled with saints of the Loyola type it would be hell." "To the Jesuit, as well as to the Fascist, anything which serves his purpose—even the greatest crime—is sacrosanct." But then, any poodle can bark at the moon, as the author does, in a manner bordering on blasphemy, at "the Roman Catholic God."

If the reader were to stop after scanning the fulsome blurbs on the wrapper of the book, he might bemoan his misfortune of never having heard of Mr. Wittmer before. When he has skimmed through the book he is saddened by the thought that an immense amount of erudition can go with a mind warped, inculpably perhaps, by previous training. He wonders, too, that the publishers did not find time in their haste to exercise a little censorship.

R. CORRIGAN

## WHEN NAZIS BETRAYED THE CHRISTIAN ADVANCE

HITLER AND THE CHRISTIANS. By Waldemar Gurian.

Sheed and Ward. \$1.75

HITLER, not neo-paganism, is the real enemy of Christianity in Germany, according to Dr. Gurian, who adds this recent study to his previous analyses of Bolshevism, Russian and Nazi. For Hitler, "religion is a means to an

end, at the most a symbolical formula, and in proportion as the Christian denominations fail to fulfil 'their purpose, the preservation of the living substance of the German people' (as he sees it), they are superfluous or even harmful."

How was it possible for the Nazi anti-Christian policy to obtain such an ascendancy as it enjoys today? The author begins the answer to this question by a study of tendencies that existed before the War and before 1933. He notes how the mutual opposition of the two creeds prepared the way for the appeal to national unity; how mutual jealousies and the jealousy of the Center aided the disruptive movements. Even the "ecumenical" association of the Stockholm Conference appeared to the nationalistic Evangelicals like a crime.

Painful to Catholic ears is the story of the extravagant hopes that were raised by Von Papen and trusting Catholic followers in the halcyon days of 1933 and 1934. According to Gurian the sterilization law which both the Pope (in 1935) and the German Bishops condemned, had been decided upon by the Reich Cabinet on July 14, 1933, previous to the signing of the Concordat. Archbishop Gröber announced October 9 the Chancellor's aims as "a German Reich built on Christian foundations and maintained by ethical and moral strength." An agreement on the neo-pagans was almost reached when Herr Klausener, the leader of Catholic Action in Berlin, was murdered, while the Fulda letter of the Bishops was suppressed.

The Church in Germany, thinks Gurian, is in a most precarious state. In accord, however, with his usual broad and deeply spiritual outlook, he sees even through this terrible persecution a ray of Providential hope, the final tearing off of all compromises with the world implied by Cardinal Faulhaber in his sermon in St. Michael's Church. It is to be regretted that Dr. Gurian's book appeared just before the Holy Father's Encyclical to the German Bishops, which would doubtless cause him to revoke his complaint as to the inactivity of the Church in protesting against the Nazi menace. However, the new light cast upon the situation by the Pope's letter can be embodied in a future edition. In the meanwhile, Dr. Gurian's book takes its place with the two more detailed studies by Dr. George N. Shuster as an invaluable guide to the German religious events. There is a convenient chronological table, but no index.

JOHN LAFARGE

## MARRIAGE FOR SOPHISTICATES

LIVE WITH A MAN AND LOVE IT! THE GENTLE ART OF STAYING HAPPILY MARRIED. By Anne Fisher. Illustrated by O. Soglow. Dodd, Mead and Co. \$1.50

THE Catholic conception of marriage is away behind the sophisticated conception of marriage. The Church, hide-bound in its ancient sacramental notions, views marriage as a Sacrament, a spiritual contract between a man and a woman with the Holy Ghost as Third Party. Such a marriage does not, of course, insure at all that the gent and the lady going through the ceremony have any chance of—in the words of this volume—"staying happily married." The Catholic conception of marriage tells the benighted Catholic couple that happiness in marriage, like Salvation, can only be worked out in fear and trembling and with the abiding acknowledgment of the presence of the above-mentioned Third Party as a witness to the marriage.

Today Time has forward-marched on. This book tells

exactly how you can insure a happy marriage by the means of Psychology. It is in the same class with the great liberating science of Dale Carnegie who has revealed to us the Eleusinian mystery of how to influence people by Psychology. And, of course, there is that sterling Christian lady, Marjorie Hillis, who has revealed to a million stenographers how to be "high-class" both cheaply and painlessly.

This volume is a masterpiece in its own class.

DAVID GORDON

## A CHILD'S DELIGHT, A PARENT'S OPPORTUNITY

*CANTICLE OF THE THREE CHILDREN. Illustrated by Frances W. Delehanty. Sheed and Ward. \$1.50*

YOU do not need to start puzzling at this early date what you are going to give a child for Christmas. The situation has already been solved by this book. Nothing, from now till Christmas, will ever top the *Canticle of the Three Children* in the Fiery Furnace, illustrated, and musically scored, by Frances Delehanty. As Father Paul Chauvin, O. S. B., says of it in his utterly charming preface: "My dear little friends: How happy you are to have been born at a time when such beautiful books are made for you!"

This is indeed a beautiful book. Miss Delehanty is an artist of the rarest attainments. Every illustration of the *Canticle* is instinct with a most spiritual motif, combined with an exact and convincing naïveté. Rarely, if ever, have I seen these two elusive qualities joined in such perfect balance. The protagonists in the pictorial story of the *Canticle* are an Angel, a Child and a little Dog. What they do while the *Canticle* is being recited (or rather sung—because the score of the music in strict Gregorian is printed on the opposite page) cannot be described. It has to be seen.

A child will not appreciate the whole significance of this book by himself. He will need an older person to explain it to him. But everything illustrated is explainable, and that is the book's peculiar charm. And the parent's opportunity.

I look forward to imagining hundreds and hundreds of Catholic firesides this coming Christmas, when a wise father or mother, with this volume in hand, is elucidating to a child on the knee, the meaning and significance of the *Canticle of the Three Children*, as it is unfolded pictorially and liturgically by the skilful hand and pen of Miss Frances Delehanty.

This is a "must" book for Christmas. And it might be well to get one's copy ahead of time. Because I prognosticate a complete sell-out of the volume before the twenty-fifth of December.

LEONARD FEENEY

## WITH HIS OWN DEATH AS THE FINAL CHAPTER

*ZEPPELIN. By Captain Ernst A. Lehmann. Longmans, Green and Co. \$3*

CAPTAIN LEHMANN traces the development of lighter-than-air craft from its beginning in Germany down to the tragedy of the Hindenburg, which claimed him among its victims. The final chapter was written by his friend, Charles Rosendahl, who, in his preface to the book gives us an interesting insight into the character of the author. The latter, however, with admirable, but, to the reader, regrettable modesty, keeps himself almost completely in the background; and that, though an unusual virtue in most books of this type, makes this one somewhat less interesting than it might have been.

There is a wealth of fascinating incident in this story of airships, and while, at times, they are packed too

closely together, the adventures of the first zeppelins are vividly recounted. We read of Count von Zeppelin's heart-breaking struggles to perfect his invention, his heavy expenditures, the ridicule of those who remained unimpressed by the possibilities of lighter-than-air craft, and his final, though incomplete, triumph. As a result, he stands out as a great man who never lost faith in his ability or beliefs, and who remained intensely human despite his insistence on rigid discipline.

Dr. Hugo Eckener also comes in for his share of the glory, for it was he who brought to fruition the work begun by the Count. It is amazing that he should have developed from a professor of Economics to his present authoritative position in the aeronautic world.

There are passages in which Captain Lehmann describes the imposing panorama of earth and sky viewed from an airship, and these, though short, make it all the more regrettable that he should have died before completing his book; for they are delightful bits of writing which together with intelligent rearrangement of incidents, and judicious cutting of unessential parts might have made the book a masterpiece in its particular field.

PAUL J. HAAS

## BOOKS IN BRIEFER REVIEW

*THE CATHOLIC STUDENTS' "AIDS" TO THE STUDY OF THE BIBLE. VOL. V, SECOND EDITION, FULLY REVISED. By Hugh Pope, O.P., S.T.M., D.S.Scr. P. J. Kenedy and Sons. \$3.75*

FATHER POPE'S "Aids" has long been an indispensable part of every library that had any pretensions to a Scriptural section. These handy volumes are literally packed with information drawn from varied sources by one of the ranking Catholic Scripturists of the world. In the present volume each book of the New Testament from "Acts" to "Apocalypse" is handled in a scholarly fashion, moot points are discussed, plentiful references are appended for further study and research, and rather full analyses are offered. This new revision makes an already valuable book more serviceable than ever.

*ROBINSON OF ENGLAND. By John Drinkwater. The Macmillan Co. \$2.50*

SON of an Oxford tradesman, Robinson Dare withstands his father's plea that he take up some gainful employment and decides to devote himself to studying and interpreting England. For this purpose he settles down to bachelor life in a Cotswold cottage where he reads, writes and collects English antiques. The bulk of the story deals with him when at the age of fifty he entertains his nieces and nephew during their winter holidays and with them explores various features of English life and history as illustrated in the vicinity. Patriotism is a great natural virtue, and Mr. Drinkwater develops its appeal skilfully, but completely ignores the supernatural, setting up in God's place the idol of the nation. He gives a good picture of modern paganism in England, but it bodes ill for the land if that picture represents the attitude of many of its intellectuals.

*JANE OF LANTERN HILL. By L. M. Montgomery. Frederick A. Stokes Co. \$2*

IF, in your wanderings through fictional romance, you have had the pleasure of meeting and knowing Ann of Green Gables, I know that you will be delighted to make the acquaintance of Jane Victoria Stuart. True, she is by way of being a wonder child but she is charming for all that. She is Victoria when she lives in Toronto. She is sternly repressed and cordially disliked by her dominating grandmother against whom her own loving mother is too weak in character to make any resistance, either in her own or Victoria's behalf. Until the age of ten, Victoria thought her father was dead, but then she



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learned that her mother had run away from him. She then decided to go back and live with her mother.

Victoria is sent to spend the summer at Prince Edward Island with this unknown father who had caused her mother so much sorrow. In fear and with great reluctance she makes the long journey only to find at the journey's end that the unknown father is the adored one of her dreams. Victoria blossoms out and so completely becomes Jane that even subsequent winters in Toronto can never again cause her to relapse into the frightened, repressed child who was Victoria. In the end, the villains are routed, and Jane lives happily forever and ever with her dearly beloved and now united parents.

Yes, it is romantic idealism but, thank God, there are still many readers for whom such a classification is not a damnation but rather an encomium; who still dream dreams and who know that by courage and trust and honor and love, many of these dreams may be made to come true.

ACT OF GOD. By F. Tennyson Jesse. The Greystone Press. \$2.50

ON reading Miss Jesse's latest book, a suspicion of unreality and a growing sense of disappointment, finds expression at the end of the story in one unfavorable adjective, "preposterous." For such is the theme of the so-called "act of God" based on a spurious miracle in which a young woman poses as the Blessed Virgin and thereby deceives two young peasant children of Fraxinet and through them the devout, God-fearing Curé and the authorities of the Church. And when the fraud is eventually made known to the Bishop he decides to let it continue for diplomatic reasons.

Under a misleading title, the story is really a thinly veiled attempt to justify Agnosticism or Naturalism in place of any genuine supernatural convictions. For instance, in the closing chapter the author remarks that "the only immortality is that of the scientist and the artist," and again "that is the only life after death, this lovely heritage both of science and beauty forever richer, handed down to mortals swiftly dead in their turn."

It seems a pity that so gifted a writer as Miss Jesse could approach so near the real beauty of Lourdes and the deep faith of a thousand Curés such as Père Cabodeno and remain so little moved by either.

ARMAMENTS YEAR-BOOK, 1936: LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Columbia University Press. \$6.25

THIS close-packed volume of 1,129 pages contains general and statistical information on the growth of armaments, traffic in arms and munitions, attempts to limit and reduce armaments, agencies for manufacturing arms and munitions in sixty-four countries, including mandated territory. Information is likewise given on all treaty agreements, and there are numerous comparative tables. There is also much information as to military matters as they affect civilian life: conscription, military education, length and character of training, military effectives, etc., in the various countries.

The work is indispensable for a factual discussion of the present problem of competitive national defense, with its consequent mad race in arms, human effectives, and budgetary expenses.

A SIMPLE INTRODUCTION TO PLAINSONG. Desclée (Tournai, Belgium, 1935).

AT the beginning of the *Liber Usualis*, which is the Bible for all non-monastic students of plain song, is a marvelously comprehensive and lucid Introduction, or "Rules for Interpretation," expounding the principles of the Solesmes method. Recently the entire rubrical or explanatory text of the *Liber Usualis* was translated into English, to the vast relief of plain song students. Dom J. H. Desroquettes, O.S.B., of Quarr Abbey, thoughtfully issues in this booklet form the "Rules for Interpretation." Novices will find here briefly told the mysteries of plain song notation, neums, accent, and rhythm, with an excellent and practical summary of Latin pronunciation for English-speaking mouths.

KING RICHARD SECOND. No matter how many "openings" it offers us, the great event of this first month of the new theatrical season is the reappearance of Maurice Evans in *King Richard II*. It would be the great event of any theatrical season anywhere; for here is not only acting that swings us up among the stars, but acting that will live in theatrical history long after those who thrill over it today are in their graves. I make no excuse for my enthusiasm over the Evans performance of this rarely done Shakespearean play. I shouted my loudest over it after its first performance in New York last year, and I have continued to shout on any and every excuse ever since.

It is one's duty to shout. In this tortured world of today, in which all the furies seem to be let loose, great art is more than ever before a thing to bend the left knee to, a thing indeed for which to thank God. Our need of it was never greater and our supply of it was never less. To recognize it and follow it among the roar of crashing standards around us, takes some doing, calls for some sanity. When it is heard and recognized it helps to preserve that sanity by calming and uplifting the spirit. Those unfortunates who failed to see *King Richard II* last season are now given another chance. Those of us who saw it several times can again ascend to the heights of artistic life and find new beauties in it.

After which, with a worried crease in my brow, I am forced to admit in honesty that we will also find a few—a very few—small flaws. Not in Mr. Evans' *Richard*! That stands, as it has stood from his first performance, unequaled in its flawlessness. And this being so it does not really matter much, of course, how the other members of the company play their rôles, except insofar as they may arouse us from the ecstatic trance into which Mr. Evans' acting sends us. Last year our attention was rarely distracted. With only one or two exceptions the other rôles were so admirably played that they kept our illusion alive every moment of the drama. We were not seeing a play. We were a living part of history, watching the tragedy of a King's life and death in the time of the Plantagenets. We had little if any doubt that Ian Keith was really Bolingbroke, or that Augustine Duncan was John of Gaunt himself. This year we have moments of sudden realization that these men are not before us—that instead we are seeing two conscientious actors, Fred-eric Worlock and Lee Baker, doing their best to live up to interpretations a bit beyond their willing hearts. One does not like those moments in which one sits up and questions, but they do not last long. In another moment *Richard*, vitally alive, is back on the stage—and there are no more questions.

One forgets that he is attending a play. The centuries slip by and we are transferred to *Richard's* court amid the fire and fury and pathos that characterized his life and death. There is no doubt that Mr. Evans has given a new impetus to a play long forgotten that will place it among the best of the great dramatist's work.

It cannot be said that Mr. Evans' work is better than it was last year. If it were, one would not be able to take in the improvement. It can only be said that now, as then, it is one of the greatest, if not the greatest, interpretations in the memory of any play-goer today. Desiring to be calm and detached in my statements, I will let it go at that. The revival, produced by Eddie Dowling and Robinson Smith, is superbly staged by Margaret Webster, at the St. James Theatre.

The end of the month is bringing us some postponements, but also a new crop of openings, four of which—*On Location*, *Blow Ye Winds*, *George and Margaret*, and *The Lady Has a Heart*,—made their bow last week. The last named, a great European success, will be reviewed in this column next week.

ELIZABETH JORDAN

## FILMS

**WIFE, DOCTOR AND NURSE.** The past explosion of Noel Coward's satiric design for living reverberates in this trumped-up bit of smartness which employs the same solution to the old triangle plot but with a feminine twist. The reverberation, we may add, is a dull one. The production is generally listless, graceless and witless in spite of a concerted effort on the part of writer and director to make it scandalously entertaining. It relates the tried, if not true story of a doctor's wife who has a heart-to-heart talk with her supposed rival of the surgery room. The effect of this frankness is to make the nurse aware of a latent love which she renounces heroically. But a professional emergency brings her back to the doctor's side and he, by self-diagnosis, discovers that both wife and nurse are necessary to his success. Of course, it lacks the baldness of Mr. Coward's piece, along with all its technical assets, but the thesis appears to be there and is developed along the lines of visual vulgarity. The able cast, including Loretta Young, Warner Baxter and Virginia Bruce, is unfortunately situated. The film is simply a worse than average example of an objectionable cycle of stories involving a shallow and unethical view of marriage. It is even less amusing than it is edifying and cannot be recommended on either score. (*Twentieth Century-Fox*)

**MY DEAR MISS ALDRICH.** The whimsical title is the boldest show of originality in this homespun picture of newspaper adventure. It is not without merit, however, and manages to hold a fair amount of interest mainly because of some convincing characterizations by the featured members of the cast. A Nebraska school teacher with strong feminist principles inherits an influential New York newspaper but discovers that the managing editor is a woman-hater. In order to convert him, she undertakes to report on a difficult labor situation and wins her scoop with his unexpected cooperation. Maureen O'Sullivan and Walter Pidgeon are not too seriously opposed and Edna May Oliver injects some lively fun into the production. It is smoothly done if unpretentious and is calculated to satisfy the demands of family audiences. (*MGM*)

**SHE ASKED FOR IT.** Poetic justice adds a sparkle to this uneven mixture of comedy and mystery when the author of successful detective stories is forced to assume the identity of his fictional Sherlock in order to unearth crime. When his uncle dies suddenly, the hero's revenue is cut off and he turns to writing. Becoming tired of his typographical cleverness, he solves the death of his relative and exposes a fake accident racket under the disguise of his brainchild. The cast, which is energetic and effective, includes William Gargan, Orien Hayward and Vivienne Osborne. If you can keep up with the rambling story, it will prove moderately diverting for general patronage. (*Paramount*)

**WINE, WOMEN AND HORSES.** Another speckled picture, this one jumps from the muddle of marital incompatibility to the conclusion of easy divorce. It is a long and episodic history of a trainer and race-track gambler who marries with the understanding that he is to give up his unstable way of life. But an opportunity to make easy money lures him away from his pledge and conflict sets in. The sporting gentleman, in a sentimental gesture, sets his disillusioned wife free to marry a former suitor. Barton MacLane, Ann Sheridan and Peggy Bates do their best with rather weak and colorless roles. Because of its solution it cannot be recommended, and the movie-goer has not much to lose. (*Warner*)

THOMAS J. FITZMORRIS

## EVENTS

INCREASING signs of returning prosperity were discerned. . . . Berkeley, Cal., increased its revenue from garbage by more than five per cent. . . . In Colorado Springs, a horse was seen guzzling soda through a straw in a soft-drink parlor. . . . The fact that hold-up men can now obtain enough without taking their victim's gold teeth was viewed as another indication of better times. Only one case of dental banditry was reported in the last few weeks. Three girls attacked a Midwest citizen, took out his gold bridge-work, put it in a handbag, drove away. . . . European countries appeared to be still enveloped by the depression. A well-known Hungarian burglar blew open a safe, found only one cent in it. . . . Science refused to abandon its onward march. . . . An invention calculated to remove a source of social discontent was patented, guaranteeing equity in the cutting of all pies. A piepan with sights like those on guns insuring absolutely equal pieces of pie to future generations was put on the market. . . . Another discovery came after research. It revealed that lionesses take kindly to perfume; that lions resent it, roar with rage when sprayed with sweet-smelling concoctions. . . . The world's sneezing record was shattered in Kansas. A sneezer there sneezed for nine hours at the hitherto unheard of rate of twenty sneezes a minute. Sneezing students revealed that the highest previous record was twelve sneezes a minute, hung up by a high-school janitor in Outer Mongolia. . . . Art lovers flocked to an exhibition of cigar-store Indians in Michigan. Interest in this form of sculpturing was said to be spreading. Believers in increasing the variety of art forms were collecting red, white and blue barber poles for an exhibition. . . . Marital differences appeared to be still continuing. A Detroit husband applying for divorce, told the judge: "I bought my wife an electric sewing machine. The first thing I knew I was making all the dresses. Then I bought her some electric cooking equipment. From then on I did all the cooking. Then I bought her a washing machine, and —" The judge interrupted him: "I know, I know, from then on you did all the washing." . . . Difficulties of this character were said by psychologists to produce irritability and moodiness in husbands. . . .

The beneficial effects of a good, restful vacation were shown. On his first day back from vacation, a New York judge sentenced twenty-three defendants to prison. . . . The full effects of war were felt in Hankow, China, when a severe beer shortage was reported. . . . The importance of a large navy was demonstrated. An American refugee from the Shanghai war zone, arriving in Manila, asked the Navy to go back and get her dog in Shanghai. Another refugee wanted the Navy to pick up her fur coat from a Shanghai storage house. . . . The resourcefulness of American citizens was again illustrated. Citizens of William Williams Corner, Ind., wasted too much time writing all that out, changed the town's name to Billville. . . . The great variety in the manifestations of jealousy was unveiled. An Eastern youth, jilted by his girl, hit her with his automobile. A charge of assault with a dangerous weapon and intent to kill was lodged against him.

*Deutsche Wehr*, a German military publication, discusses the question of spreading deadly germs among enemy civilian populations. The article shows that the most effective microbes are: spotted typhus, yellow fever, typhoid, smallpox, cholera and plague. The possibility of cultivating yellow fever germs with mosquitos and spotted typhus with lice was also gone into. . . . Soon we may have a Neutrality Act forbidding American merchants to ship lice and mosquitos to foreign belligerents.

THE PARADER



